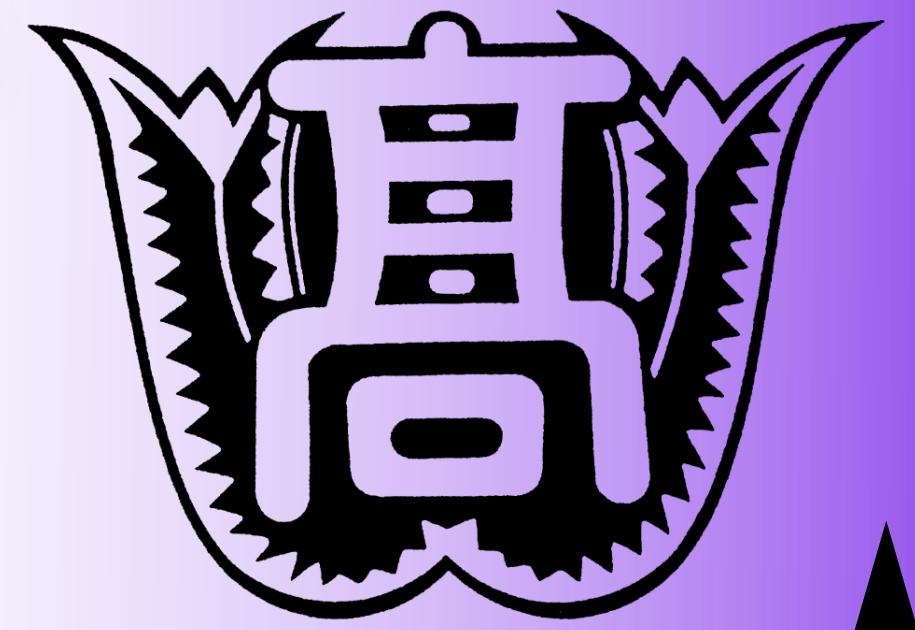


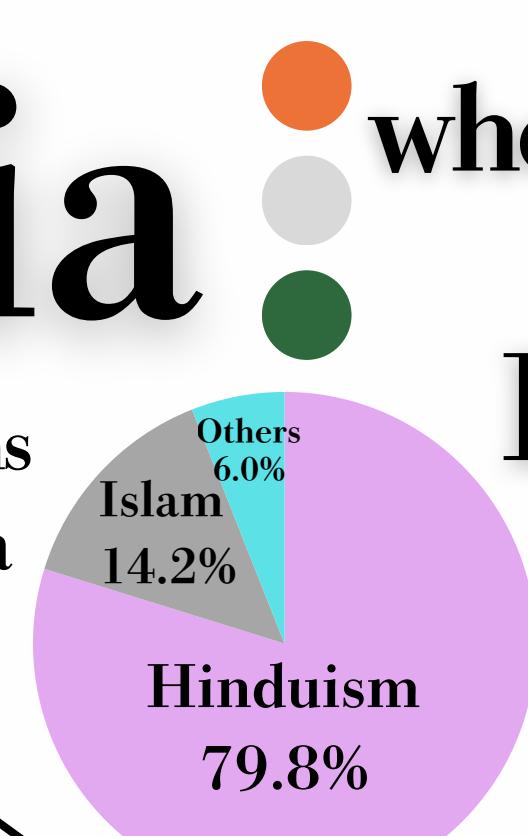
# PRAY OR PLAY

~Even if the countries, languages, or religions are different~



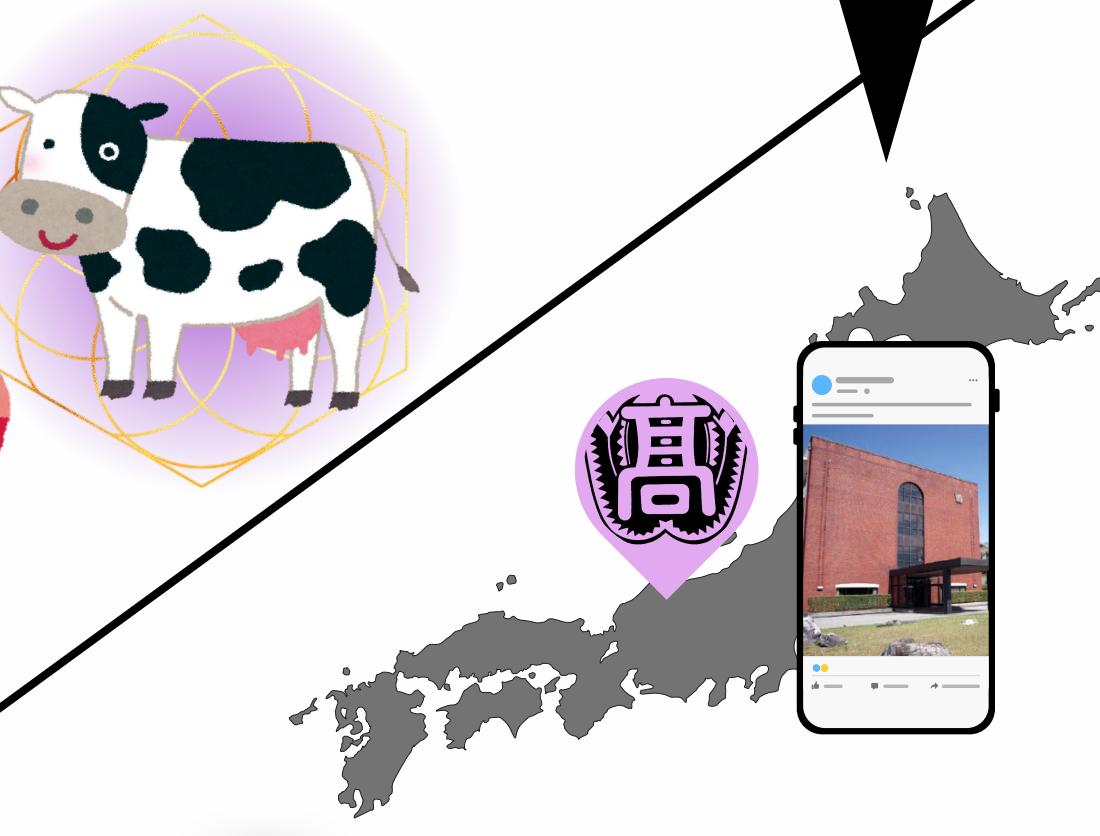
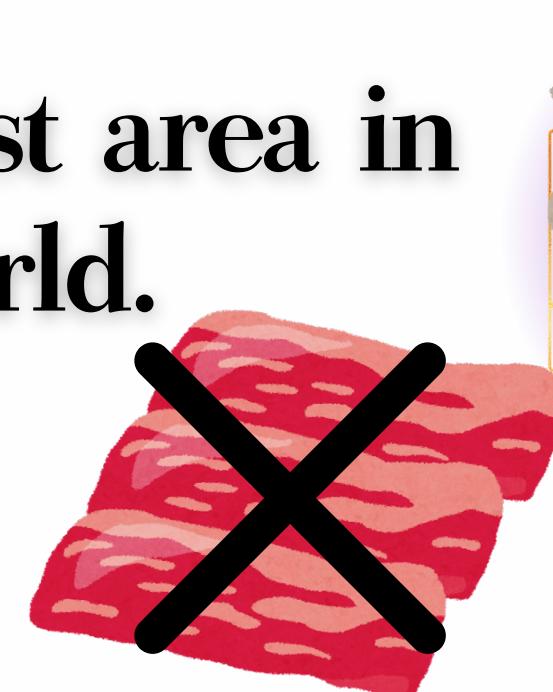
## India

Religions in India



where Nurture International School is located, has the largest area in South Asia and is the most populous country in the world.

**Hinduism** is the main religion in India. It emerged around 4,000 years ago and has over 1.1 billion followers worldwide, with approximately 1 billion estimated to be in India alone. Many Hindus are vegetarians, particularly avoiding beef. This is because cows are considered sacred in Hinduism, and it is forbidden not only to eat beef but also to harm cows. Hinduism does not have a specific founder or single scripture and is characterized by its devotion to many deities. Additionally, Hinduism includes the concept of samsara (reincarnation), which holds that the soul is reborn into a new life after death.



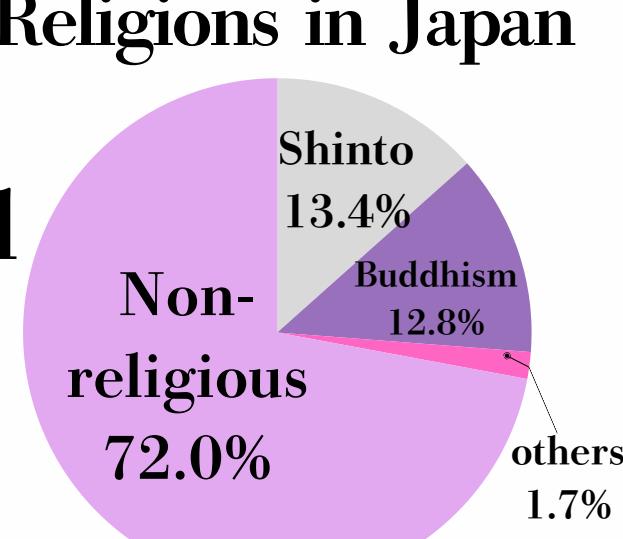
## Japan

Japan, where Takaoka Ryukoku High School is located, is an island nation in East Asia that recently saw the birth of its first female prime minister in history.

Seventy percent of people in Japan identify as non-religious.

Our Takaoka Ryukoku High School is a school affiliated with **Jodo Shinshu Honganji** sect.

Jodo shinshu is a religion founded by Shinran. He was a disciple of Honen. Anyone can go to the Pure Land by chanting "Namu Amida Butsu". It was born approximately 800 years ago. Unlike other Buddhist teaching that require self-powered practices, the teaching of Jodo Shinshu guarantees salvation and rebirth in the Pure Land through faith alone. It is the largest Buddhist sect in Japan in terms of followers and is characterized by its accessibility to ordinary people.



## Nigeria

where Transatlantic International School is located, is in West Africa and is the most populous country in Africa.

There are two religions in Nigeria.

at the north is **Islam**.

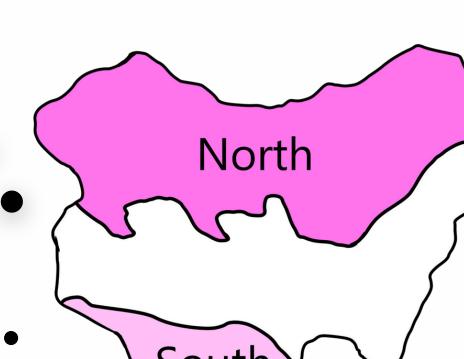
at the south is **Christianity**.

This is influenced by colonial rule.

In the north, Islam, and in the south, Christianity, were clearly divided in terms of values due to British rule. Even after independence, religious conflicts arising from differences in values continue to this day. The form of Christianity practiced in the south is one of the world's major religions.

Christianity, which is practiced in the southern region, is one of the major religions in the world. Its founder is Jesus. Christianity teaches about love and forgiveness.

It also teaches about peace. It began about 2,000 years ago.



In Indonesia, everyone belongs to a religion, with **Islam** being the predominant faith.

Islam was founded in the 7th century on the Arabian Peninsula. Its founder was Muhammad, who was born in Mecca and began receiving revelations from God at around the age of 40. These revelations were later compiled into the Quran, which became the holy book of Islam.

Islamic practices include prohibitions on pork and praying five times daily. Despite these strict rules, freedom of religion and thought is legally guaranteed, like Japan. Indonesian youth enjoy music genres like rock, pop, and R&B, and Japanese anime culture is highly popular, with series such as One Piece and Naruto being favorites. Anime songs are widely listened to, and during international exchanges, Indonesian students showed great excitement when anime songs were played.

where SMA Islam Terpadu School is located, is an island country that straddles the equator and has over 17,000 islands.

## Break the walls

On November 7th, Takaoka Ryukoku High School held an international exchange event by connecting the school auditorium with high school students overseas online. Participants included students from Takaoka Ryukoku High School as well as from India, Indonesia, and Nigeria. During the exchange, there were quizzes and speeches about music, filling the venue with smiles. Some students gave presentations about Godzilla, adding excitement to the event. Additionally, the internationally active DJ couple Tatezuka was invited, and through band performances, Yosakoi dances, and a range of songs from trending social media hits to national songs, our hearts were connected through music.

We are different from students from overseas. They are not from our country, speak different languages, and practice different religions. They also have different ways of thinking and values from us. When you hear the word "different," you might associate it with conflict. In fact, differences in language, religion, and values cause conflicts all over the world. For example, fights and wars. From small things to big things. But we have been able to connect with these "different" people. That's through music. We believe that music has great power. Music can break down barriers in people's hearts, make people smile, and connect people of different backgrounds. That is the power of music!

Through this international exchange, we realized that the world needs music. If you pray, I will play...

You and I are different.  
But I want to connect with you.  
Hey! What kind of music do you like...?



International Exchange Event - November 7		
Time	Program	Presenter(s)
15:10 ~ 15:20	Live performance	Mr. Tatezuka
Opening Remarks		
15:20 ~ 15:40	Self-introductions	
15:40 ~ 15:45	Quiz	
15:45 ~ 16:00	Godzilla performance	
16:00 ~ 16:10	Speech "What does music mean to me?"	
10 minutes break		
16:10 ~ 16:20	DJ Live with Yosakoi Dance Team Music Band Club Closing Remarks	Mr. Tatezuka Yosakoi Dance members Music Band Club members

Next summer!  
Takaoka Ryukoku High School will be inviting high school students from overseas to hold a Manga Summit!  
It's sure to be even more exciting than this year!  
Please come to our school!

From Gaolong

