

Unit 4 North America

Read, then listen and fill in the Fact Box. Then, before each chapter in this unit, read the cultural tendencies and discuss Japan's cultural tendency in this regard, as well as your own habits.

The first North Americans probably walked over a land bridge from Asia. These people spread all over the continent and became Native Americans. There were many tribes with their own customs and languages. Then, thousands of years later, Europeans arrived, first from northern Europe. A few hundred years after that Columbus arrived. To Europeans, North America was a "New World." Today, Canada and the United States have the longest open border in the world.

Fact Box

population: > or < one billion?	main languages: _____, _____
population density: > or < 50km ²	life expectancy: > or < 80?
number of countries: > or < 25?	largest city: Mexico City, New York or Winnipeg?

Cultural tendencies are stereotypes. Of course, each individual is different. Many don't conform to cultural or national stereotypes.

Canadians tend to...	Japan	you	comment
say "sorry" for various reasons.			
be polite.			
value eye contact when meeting others.			
value personal space and privacy.			
love nature and outdoor activities.			
protect the environment.			
be punctual.			
accept all races, religions, and habits.			

Americans tend to...	Japan	you	comment
dress informally.			
spoil their children.			
eat fast food.			
separate infants from parents at night.			
wear caps.			
embrace big, unlikely dreams.			
value individuals higher than groups.			
value low price (quantity) over quality.			