Progress Monitoring Probe 6

Mount Fuji

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allows them to reach the crater rim just as the sun is rising from Some of the hikers set out at night, flashlights in hand. This seven hours or longer. The trip down can take about three hours season. The hike up the mountain can take between five and several zigzag routes to the summit during the summer climbing hikers and tourists from around the world also climb one of temples that surround the volcano. Hundreds of thousands of Every year, thousands of pilgrims flock to the shrines and 289 275 263 240 230 219 210

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Mount Fuji (Continued)

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Mount Fuji

The most famous symbol of Japan is not an electronic game or a car that saves fuel. It's a cone-shaped mountain known as Mount Fuji. Located near the Pacific coast about sixty miles west of Tokyo, Fuji is the tallest mountain in Japan. It rises to a height of over twelve thousand feet.

Fuji is actually a volcano formed from layers of ash and lava and crowned by a wide crater. Even more accurately, it is three overlapping volcanoes. Over thousands of years, lava and ash from the youngest volcano have covered the two older volcanoes. This process has helped create the tapered form of the mountain.

The name is thought to mean "everlasting life." Fuji has long been considered sacred in Japan. Its graceful cone has inspired poets and artists throughout the centuries. To add to its majesty, Fuji is surrounded by beautiful forests and lakes.

Fuji has erupted at least ten times since the eighth century. Although nearly three hundred years have passed since the volcano last erupted, geologists still consider it active. There are areas of hot sand on the rim of its crater. This leads some scientists to think that the volcano may erupt again.

Every year, thousands of pilgrims flock to the shrines and temples that surround the volcano. Hundreds of thousands of hikers and tourists from around the world also climb one of several zigzag routes to the summit during the summer climbing season. The hike up the mountain can take between five and seven hours or longer. The trip down can take about three hours. Some of the hikers set out at night, flashlights in hand. This allows them to reach the crater rim just as the sun is rising from

the ocean to set the sky ablaze. What could be more fitting than standing at sunrise on the highest peak in Japan, a country known as the Land of the Rising Sun?