



Day One

Late in the afternoon, Flat Stanley arrived in Lexington, Kentucky, from Folsom, California. The trip took about three days by United States mail.

Flat Stanley was very cold from the trip, and it was cold outside in Kentucky when he was delivered into the mailbox. So, Flat Stanley warmed himself by the fire before dinner.

After getting good and warm, Flat Stanley ate dinner. The dinner was macaroni and cheese. Flat Stanley liked it very much. After dinner, Flat Stanley went to bed. Flat Stanley did not even watch television.

Flat Stanley knew he had a long trip in the morning. In the morning, Flat Stanley would fly from Kentucky to Japan for the New Year.

Emma's Flat Stanley was staying in Kentucky with the same person another Flat Stanley stayed with almost five years ago.

Five years ago, Emma was just 2! Emma's older friend Sophia did a Flat Stanley project in 2005. Sophia asked a nice man named Mr. Chuck to host Flat Stanley while Mr. Chuck was in Iraq in 2005. Mr. Chuck hosted Flat Stanley.

Emma asked Mr. Chuck to help her on her project like he helped her friend Sophia. Mr. Chuck agreed. So, Mr. Chuck is the same man who took care of Flat Stanley in Kentucky.

That night, before Flat Stanley fell asleep, he thought about his friend, the Older Flat Stanley of Emma's friend Sophia.

Midnight Day One

Flat Stanley really was tired! Flat Stanley fell asleep quickly, excited about the trip to Japan he would take in the morning.

While excited about his own trip, Flat Stanley also thought about the Older Flat Stanley and all of his travels in the Middle East.

First, Flat Stanley thought of how the Older Flat Stanley visited the River Jordan and the location of what many people believe to be the place where Jesus was baptized. Wow! Thinking of that scene, Emma's Flat Stanley fell into a deep sleep.



Day Two Dreaming

Sophia's Flat Stanley visited the Jordan River. The Jordan River is very beautiful.



Flat Stanley remembered when the Older Flat Stanley visited an orphanage in Baghdad, Iraq. The children of the orphanage loved to visit with Flat Stanley.



Flat Stanley in Japan? Dreaming? You Decide.



The children in the orphanage liked Flat Stanley so much, they got him a little dirty with melted chocolate from the treats they had to eat. But Flat Stanley was happy to see so many nice children in Iraq.



Flat Stanley also remembered how the Older Flat Stanley visited an important man in the government of Iraq. The man was a government official (minister) in charge of orphanages.

Flat Stanley in Japan? Dreaming? You Decide.

The man holding the Older Flat Stanley is the Minister in charge of orphanages. Mr. Chuck is also in the picture with a woman he worked with.

Wow, the Older Flat Stanley had so many interesting experiences. Flat Stanley hoped that his adventures in Japan would be interesting too. Flat Stanley hoped and dreamed of fun and a good adventure in Japan.

Day Three

Flat Stanley arrived in Japan for Shogatsu or New Year's. The Japanese celebrate New Year's at the same time of year that we do here in California. It is a big celebration, and everyone is very happy.

Here is a picture of the kind of decorations that the Japanese buy to decorate their homes.



Flat Stanley in Japan? Dreaming? You Decide.



Flat Stanley enjoyed the Shogatsu (New Year) decorations on the house in which he was staying.

There are two different Japanese Flags at the top of the decoration seen with Flat Stanley just above. One looks like a meatball on a white table cloth. That is the National Flag of Japan.

Just next to the meatball flag is a flag with a red meatball in the middle, and many red lines. That flag is the flag of the Japanese Army National Defence Forces.

The Japanese hang these flags on Shogatsu (New Year) to celebrate their country, just like people in the United States hang our flag on the Fourth of July.

Flat Stanley in Japan? Dreaming? You Decide.



The Japanese like to visit religious shrines (like our churches) on New Year's Day. It is often the first thing they do in the New Year, sometimes just after midnight early on New Year's morning. But that is very early, and in winter it is very cold in Japan.

Flat Stanley was too cold to go at midnight, so he went during New Year's Day, first thing in the morning.

Day Four

We know that Flat Stanley arrived in Japan just before Shogatsu (New Year).

But Flat Stanley must have been very tired. Flat Stanley woke up from his long dream next to a dog. That was the day after Shogatsu (New Year). The dog was still sleeping.



At first, Flat Stanley did not know where he was. When he went to sleep, he was thinking about Sophia's Flat Stanley, who went to Iraq. Where was Flat Stanley? In Iraq? In Kentucky? In Japan? Where?



When Flat Stanley woke up, he was next to a dog named Johnnie. Johnnie quickly became Flat Stanley's friend. But how did Flat Stanley get there with Johnnie the dog?

Flat Stanley was confused. Was he really in Japan? Was Flat Stanley just dreaming?

Day Five

Flat Stanley left Johnnie the dog, and found the owner of the house (and Johnnie) where he was staying.

Flat Stanley asked his host in Japan where he was. He could not ask Johnnie, because Johnnie the dog did not speak English. Johnnie just barked and licked Flat Stanley. But that didn't help Flat Stanley to know where he really was.

After Mr. Chuck in Kentucky, Flat Stanley had another host who was Japanese. He was a friend of Mr. Chuck's. His name was Mr. Naoya. Mr. Naoya could speak English.

So Flat Stanley asked Mr. Naoya. Mr. Naoya told Flat Stanley he was really in Japan. He had made the trip just before Shogatsu (New Year). Flat Stanley could not believe his eyes. Flat Stanley thought he was still dreaming. But Flat Stanley was in Japan.

To help Flat Stanley, Mr. Naoya wanted to explain to Flat Stanley where he was. Mr. Naoya hoped to make Flat Stanley less confused.

Flat Stanley in Japan? Dreaming? You Decide.

So, Mr. Naoya took Flat Stanley to a large book with many maps. Mr. Naoya showed Flat Stanley Japan. Japan is made of four main islands.

All the four islands are almost equal in size to California. But there are 120 million people in Japan. California has nearly 35 million people.

That means that in Japan, there are more than 3 people living there for every one person living in California. And California and Japan are the same size! Wow, it must be crowded in Japan!

Imagine 3 of each of you. Imagine 3 Emmas. Imagine 3 teachers! Imagine 3 sets of homework! That is like the number of people in Japan compared with California!



Flat Stanley in Japan? Dreaming? You Decide.

Flat Stanley was the guest of Mr. Naoya and his family on the island of Kyushuu. The island of Kyushuu is dark brown on the map just above.



This is the place where Flat Stanley stayed while he was in Japan.

On Kyushuu there are many cities with many people. Flat Stanley stayed with Mr. Naoya and his family in the place where the arrow is pointing. It is near Saga city.

Slowly, Flat Stanley realized that he really was in Japan. But he could not remember the trip from Kentucky to Japan. But he really was in Japan.

Day Six

It was time to fly back to California and report back to Emma. Flat Stanley was sad to leave Mr. Naoya and his family. But Flat Stanley had to get home to Emma and tell her about his trip. Flat Stanley was sad to leave Johnnie.



But all adventures must come to an end.

As Flat Stanley flew home to California from Japan, he thought of his many adventures. He really did go to Japan. Flat Stanley really did stay with Mr. Naoya. Flat Stanley did not dream the trip. Flat Stanley lived the trip. It was a great time.

Flat Stanley can hardly wait to share his trip with Emma and her class. And, Flat Stanley might even share his dream with Sophia's Flat Stanley. But was it really a dream? You decide.

Happy New Year!