

## Sam McDonald – Japanese Whaling

1. As a student of Japanese language and culture, I am pained by the problem of Japanese whaling in Australian waters.
2. Australia is tolerant of whaling by its Aboriginal people, but against whaling by Japan.
3. How should they act in order to prevent damaging Japan-Australia relations?
4. Australia's Aborigines have relied on the ocean as a food source for many thousands of years.
5. The Aborigines have hunted dugongs, turtles, and whales for a variety of purposes, and (6.) there is both social and cultural value in communicating and continuing the hunting tradition.
7. The Aboriginal people's right to hunt is protected by law, helping other Australians to understand their way of life.
8. However, this law is limited to hunting by Australia's Aborigines.
9. For Japanese people, whaling is a custom that has existed since ancient times, and is closely tied to Japan's culture and tradition.
10. It is a tradition that was first recorded in the 8<sup>th</sup> century during the rule of Emperor Jinmu, and has been handed down ever since.
11. Whales have been used for their oil, as a raw material for various industries and as a food source in traditional seats of celebration.
12. For these reasons, Japanese whaling holds a place as a part of daily life as it does for Australian Aborigines.
13. In this case, why is Japanese whaling not welcomed in Australian waters?
14. The problem is in the number of whales captured.
15. However, it is not a problem that can be solved purely with explosive protests.
16. Rather, it is important that both parties persevere in discussing the discrepancies in their opinions on how they can reduce the number of whales captured.
17. Following this, it is important to get the Australian people to understand more about Japanese whaling.

18. Then, for the sake of conserving the environment, both parties should seek a constructive solution.

19. While studying Japanese language and culture, I have paid a lot of attention to differences in culture and customs, and I have learnt the importance of being patient and tolerant.

20. I think that persevering to promote reconciliation between Japan and Australia over the whaling problem is a good opportunity for both countries to take another look at each other's customs and traditions and understand each other.

21. With this, I am hoping to see Japan-Australia relations continue to deepen in the future.