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# Japan Screen Topics

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ISE-SHIMA  
--PEARLS FROM THE SEA--

PRINT

147 feet 4 min. 05 sec.

1. (ISLANDS) Lovers of natural beauty could do worse than make for Mie Prefecture in western Japan, where a thousand islands scattered in a deep blue sea help to make the Ise-shima National Park one of the country's most popular scenic spots.

2. (CITY IN DISTANCE) Located virtually at the center of the Park is Ise City... 178 square kilometers that are home for 11,000 people. Ise is known for its shrines... there are 250 of them in and around the city itself, and their distinctive torii gates can be seen everywhere.

3. (GATE) This gate, for example, leads to the main shrine, known as Ise Jingu....

An average of approximately seven million worshippers annually pay their respects at this shrine which dates back to the 5th Century... It's a fine example of some of Japan's oldest architecture.

4. (PEARL) The Ise Bay is known for another thing of beauty... the cultured pearl. Countless oyster beds are visible throughout the Bay. The temperature, depth, and salinity of the water here, together with the calm currents, make Ise Bay ideal for raising the type of oyster used in growing pearls.

5. (ISLAND) The region's Mikimoto Pearl Island stands as a tribute to Mikimoto Kokichi, who, in 1893, produced the first cultured pearl in these very waters. The museum and exhibition hall contain superb examples such as these... among them--The Miss International Crown, and a replica of the famous pagoda at the Horyuji Temple, fashioned from nearly 13,000 pearls.

6. (BOAT) Visitors to Pearl Island never fail to be intrigued by the women divers, known as ama-san. The specially designed clothing is unique to these pearl divers who manage to stay submerged for surprisingly long periods in search of the oysters. Just as unique is the strange whistling-sound the ama-san make when they surface.

7. (OPENING OYSTER) The growth of a cultured pearl begins when an irritant is introduced into the flesh of a particular type of oyster... When the ama-san have successfully brought the mature oysters to the surface, the shells are opened to reveal the perfect spherical treasure.

(SORTING) The size, of course, varies, as does the color, and the pearls are sorted accordingly before being drilled and threaded into strings.

8. (STRINGS OF PEARLS) From the waters of Ise Bay comes Japan's most well known jewel, recognized throughout the world as a thing of lasting beauty.

#### STATUE SURGEONS OF KYOTO

74 feet 2 min. 04 sec.

1. (TEMPLE) The ancient city of Kyoto was Japan's capital for 10 centuries that embraced many of the greatest periods in

Japanese art. Kyoto still has about 3,000 Buddhist temples, some of them housing statues more than 1,000 years old.

Many were carved from wood... and they are subject to the ravages of time, insects, and nowadays air pollution.

2. (BROKEN BUDDHAS) To preserve this cultural heritage, Kyoto's art institute operates a National Treasures Repair Center.

Thirty skilled artists work full time mending and refurbishing these works of art.

This statue surgeon is cleaning the carved lotus leaves of a type found at the base of many Buddha images.

3. (STAND) Many of the statues are mounted on wooden stands. These too decay in time unless properly maintained.

The men who do this work are steeped in the history of Japanese art. There can be no shortcuts... each statue must be kept faithful to the artistic style of the era in which it was created.

4. (BODY) A religious statue gets a new protective coating of urushi, a special varnish.

In its 80 year existence, the art institute has refurbished more than 5,000 statues. The repair jobs can take anywhere from six months to a year. Some have required as long as three years.

Only small statues come to the institute's hospital for sculptures. Larger ones are treated at the temples and museums where they are housed.

(LONG SHOT) Dedicated artists preserve a rich cultural heritage for the benefit of future generations.

## AN EYE ON GOOD LUCK

38 feet 1 min. 04 sec.

1. (ROUND DOLL) The legless tumbling doll known as a daruma is a popular good-luck charm in Japan. Its weighted, rounded base means that no matter how often it's knocked over, it's certain to bounce right back... With a view to investing in a year's good fortune, the dolls are usually bought in and around January at special markets such as this one held annually at the Nishi Arai Daishi temple in Tokyo.
2. (CU OF DARUMA) The custom is to paint in one eye in black, right after purchase. At the same time, a wish is made... perhaps for success in business, in examinations, or even in love. When the wish is fulfilled, the second eye is painted in to match...
3. (DARUMA IN BAG) More of a pleasant custom than a true superstition, the tumbling doll is nevertheless very popular among those with an eye on good fortune!

## GREENHOUSE COMPLEXES

70 feet 1 min. 57 sec.

1. (GREENHOUSES) Farmers in Aichi Prefecture, located between Tokyo and Osaka, have co-operated in boosting their profits by using communal greenhouses... The climate on the southern coast of the Atsumi Peninsula has nourished a thriving business in flowers, fruits and vegetables... Until recently each farmer had his own hothouse, usually made of plastic.
2. (PLANTS) Grouping together to build large communal greenhouses has improved efficiency, however, and now crops such as tomatoes,

chrysanthemums, and melons are grown all year round on a rotation basis... This is one of four complexes, which together take up 700,000 square meters of land.

3. (WIDE SHOT OF VINYL MOVING) This automatic vinyl heat retainer was purchased jointly by the farmers... as was the sprinkling system....

(TRACTOR) The tractor too is communal. By sharing costs each farmer has shown an average increase of 100% on profits... a good example of how co-operation and the modernization of agricultural techniques can result in improved benefits for all concerned.

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