



# ITSUKUSHIMA SHINTO SHRINE

# Itsukushima Shinto Shrine

In the western part of Japan, on an island called Itsukushima, you'll find the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Itsukushima Shinto Shrine. More than 10,000 visitors make their way to the area daily to see this dock-like shrine that was first built in the year 593 by Saeki no Kuramoto. The shrine includes floating structures and buildings reachable to visitors through corridors. Credit for the over-the-water design we see today at the site goes to warlord Taira no Kiyomori, a samurai who led the imperial government and lived in the 1100s.

## The Island & Location:

Itsukushima Island is also referred to as Miyajima, and can be found in Hiroshima Prefecture, Japan. The name Itsukushima translates to "island of worship," and its land, regarded as sacred, is said to be the home of three goddesses of storms and seas. In its entirety, the island is also believed to be a kami, which is a god.

## The Structure:

The shrine was built upon the waters of the Seto Inland Sea and is made up of 20 buildings in total. It rests on elevated pillars so that it doesn't actually make contact with the sacred island. The shrine is probably most recognized for its gate, called the torii gate. At this location, visitors can see the threefold wonder of the forest, ocean, and Mount Misen's peak. Built in an area where the tide rises and falls throughout the day, the torii almost looks like it's floating when the waters have risen. At low tide, visitors can get an up-close view, and walk right through the gateway.

## Fun Facts:

- The Shinto religion is the oldest in Japan.
- The torii gate is 16.5 meters high and was built in 1875. The construction that year marked its eighth rebuilding.
- The tide around the shrine shifts between low and high every six hours.
- Miyajima is 12 square miles in area.
- Surrounding the shrine are three pools known as mirror pools.
- Tourists headed to the island can catch a ferry in Hiroshima.
- To this day, in an effort to keep the island pure, deaths and births cannot take place here.
- Among the buildings of the shrine, you'll find a Noh theater stage. It is the only one of its kind that floats in all of Japan.





# Word Search

H X S H R I N E L T O D  
G O D D E S S E S U X S  
E Y S F P T E M P L E H  
R E L I G I O N G Y J I  
W S K B S E T O P D A N  
H I R O S H I M A P P T  
G A S L K I F T N R A O  
L S N U L F E K O Z N M  
W M I Y A J I M A R C N  
W H C E G A T E S B I R  
N S Z R D I B F H R R I  
M K O L N C I S L A N D

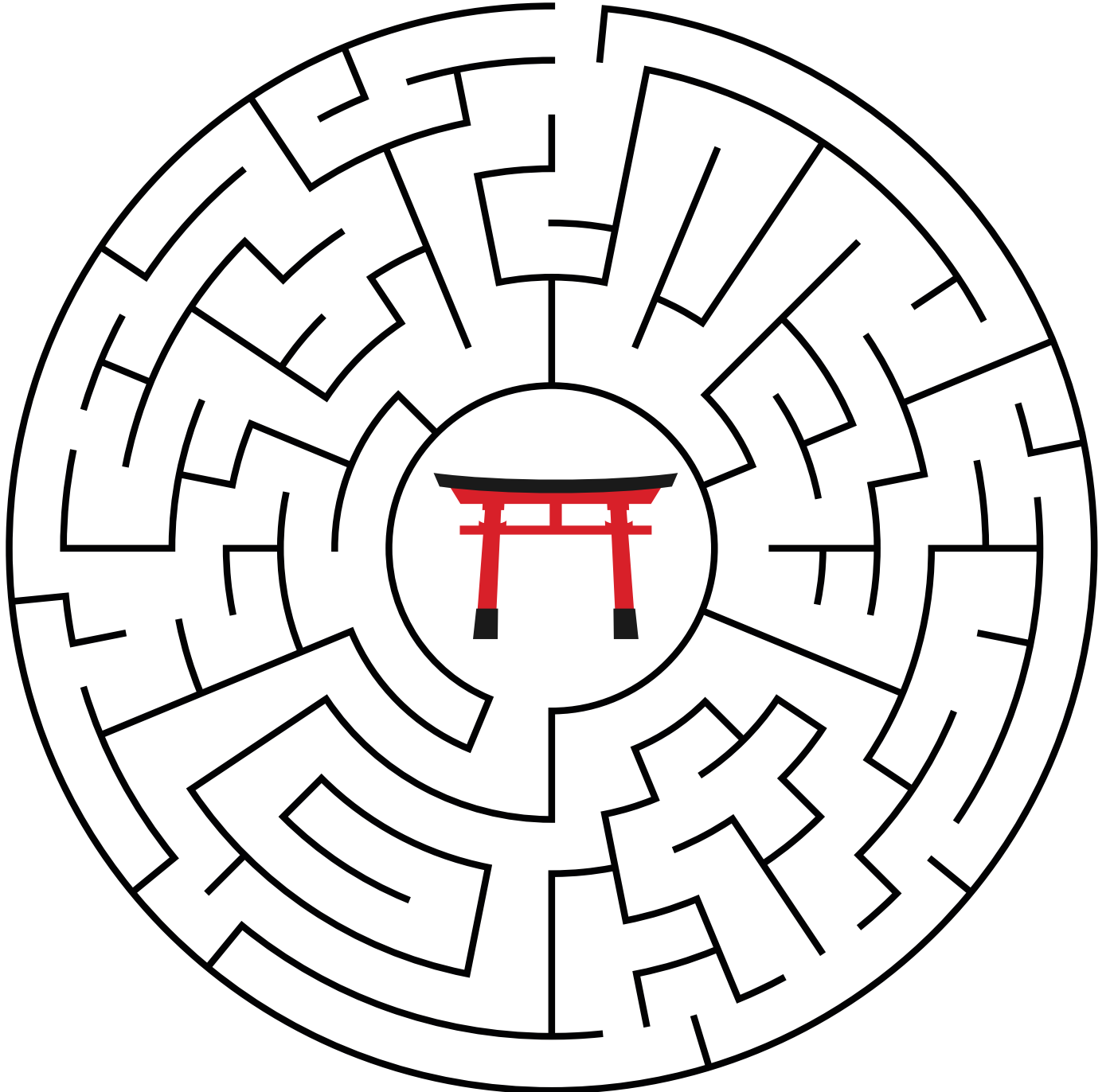
Japan  
Hiroshima  
Miyajima  
Island

Shrine  
Temple  
Seto  
Torii

Gates  
Shinto  
Religion  
Goddesses

# Maze

Help the dragon find their way through the Torii gate.



# Solutions

H X **S H R I N E** L T O D  
**G O D D E S S E S** U X **S**  
 E Y S F P **T E M P L E** H  
**R E L I G I O N** G Y **J** I  
 W S K B **S E T O** P D A N  
**H I R O S H I M A** P P T  
 G A S L K I F T N R A O  
 L S N U L F E K O Z N M  
 W **M I Y A J I M A** R C N  
 W H C E **G A T E S** B I R  
 N S Z R D I B F H R R I  
 M K O L N C **I S L A N D**

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