The flag of Japan is one of the oldest flags in the world that can trace its use by the Emperors of Japan back to the year 701. The red circle represents the sun and it is commonly known as the ‘Hinomaru’, or ‘Circle of the Sun’. Japanese mythology states that the Emperor is a direct descendent of the sun goddess Amaterasu and the sun plays an important part in Japanese mythology.

The size of the circle and the shade of red used have changed numerous times. The circle was made larger for the 1964 Olympics so that the flag would appear more striking next to other flags.

Can you find out three more facts about the flag of Japan?
THE NATIONAL FLAG OF JAPAN