

**1. Read the text and answer the following questions.**

*Which country(ies)...*

- a. are enlarging their networks of high-speed trains more rapidly? .....
- b. has the world's best high-speed trains? .....
- c. intends to build a high-speed link known as HS2? .....
- d. is slowly expanding its high-speed lines? .....
- e. plans to build a high-speed link between San Francisco and Los Angeles? .....

**2. Complete each sentence with the correct ending, A-J, in the box.**

- a. Many countries are obsessed with .....
- b. The rail network developed due to Japan's .....
- c. Japan has few natural resources and .....
- d. Japan's 128 million inhabitants live in .....
- e. The purpose of Shinkansen is .....

A. a few densely populated cities  
B. companies and governments  
C. high-speed rail  
D. some foreign visitors  
E. to link major cities  
F. from Tokyo to your destination  
G. a largely mountainous terrain  
H. the best solution possible  
I. geographical features  
J. some foreign visitors

**3. Answer and discuss the following questions.**

- a. Do you use railway services to travel in your country? Why or why not?
- b. Would you fly all the way to Japan to enjoy a ride on Shinkansen? Why or why not?
- c. What does the saying used at the end of the text mean? Explain in your own words. Provide another example.