

Gifu prefectural Seki high school

About Seki city

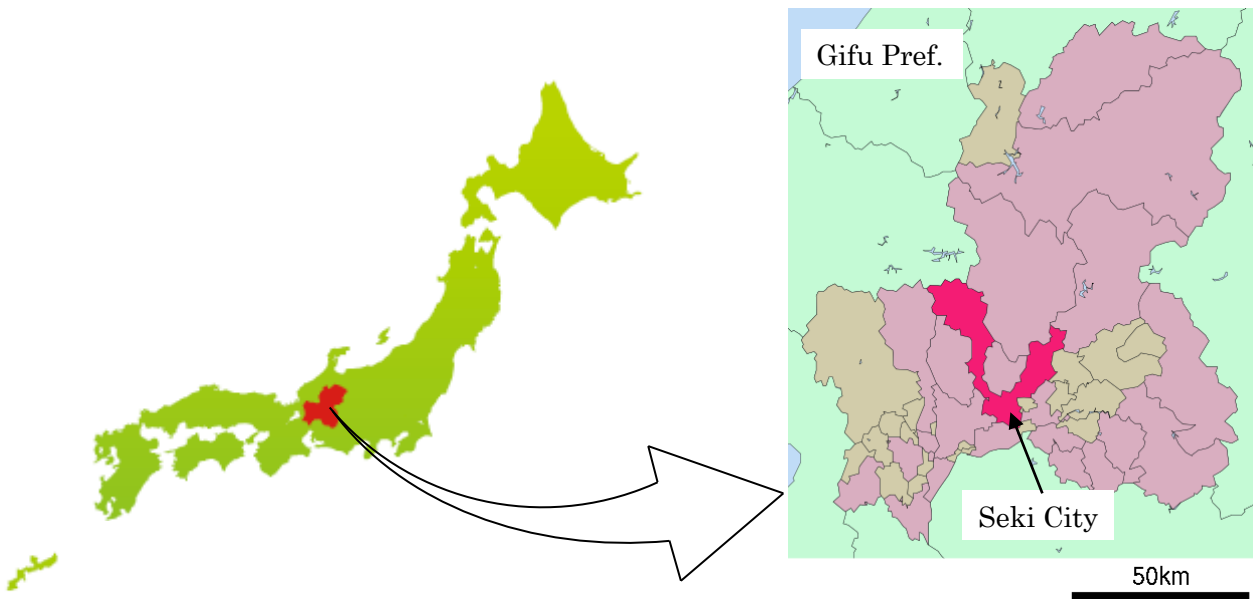
Information of Seki

Seki city is the population of gravity in Japan, this means all the people living north of Seki in all of Japan is about the same as all the people living south of Seki in all of Japan

- ◇Population : about 90,000
- ◇Area : 472,8 km²
- ◇Symbol tree of Seki : Japanese cedar
- ◇Symbol flower of Seki : chrysanthemum
- ◇Symbol bird of Seki : kingfisher
- ◇Symbol fish of Seki : sweet fish
- ◇Symbol color of Seki : bright green
- ◇Position of Seki



[Flag of Seki city]



A Seki-made Cutlery

Swordsmiths in Seki started to produce wonderful *katanas* from *Kamakura* period. But producing *katanas* was forbidden after the Pacific War was over. Nevertheless the tradition of the cutlery in Seki didn't come to a close. Cutlery which satisfies the people around the world is still produced as well as *katanas* with excellent skills. We'll introduce Seki-City cutlery.

The first is a kitchen knife. There are knives made from damascus steels which have a beautiful striped pattern, knives made from stainless steel which doesn't rust easily, and so on.



The second is a razor. More than 80% of the Japanese shipments are produced in Seki City.



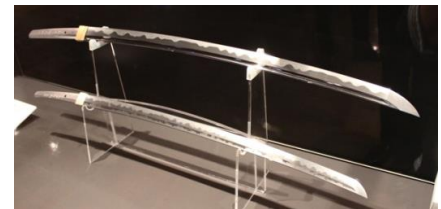
The third is a knife. Various cool knives are made in Seki.

■ Japanese Sword

“Doesn't break, doesn't bend, and sharply cut”

Japanese swords of Seki are very famous because they have been made for more than 1000 years. Many famous Japanese generals used them as weapons.

Also a lot of Japanese swords are national treasures.



Japanese sword

The material of Japanese swords is “**Tamahagane**”.

“**Tamahagane**” is raw steel made by smelting sand iron, for use in sword blades.

The properties of “**Tamahagane**”

- 1 Forge welding is easy.
- 2 Polishing is easy.
- 3 Hard to break, hard to bend, and can be sharply cut.
- 4 Strong to rust.
- 5 Beautiful designs can be made.



Tamahagane

■ traditional culture of Seki : **Oze cormorant fishing**

It has a history of over 1,000 years. Usho is a person who manipulates a bird called a cormorant. S/He use cormorant birds to catch sweet fish. S/He let the birds spit out the fish they caught. Usho manipulate 10 to 5 cormorant birds at a time. It is conducted from May to October. It is also very popular among foreign tourists.

