

Either way, everyone will want to come back

Heian Period (A Lifetime's Worth of Information)

Characteristics: Nature, face-to-face conversations, and letters (waka poetry) were central to information.

Sources: Much of the information was perceived through the five senses, such as the changing seasons, bird songs, and gossip heard from others.

Image: Even simply gazing at nature was part of the information.

Edo Period (A Year's Worth of Information)

Characteristics: Written information increased with the spread of books, woodblock prints, and terakoya (private schools).

Sources: Travel records, storybooks, and town gossip.

Image: Modern people process in one day the knowledge that took a year to acquire.

Reiwa Era (Information for One Day)

Characteristics: "Information overload" from the internet, social media, and smartphones.

Sources: News, advertisements, emails, videos, and social media notifications that never stop, 24 hours a day.

Image: You'll be overwhelmed if you don't not only "know" the information but also "process" it (select and think about it).

Why has it increased so much? According to data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications,

Internet traffic has increased approximately 6,500 times in the 20 years since 2000.

☆If time travel were possible★

* Heian/Edo period ⇒ Modern day

Upon arrival, you'd be completely bewildered and unable to keep up, so you'd immediately want to go back.

* Modern day ⇒ Heian/Edo period

At first, everything would seem fascinating, but you'd have too much time on your hands and want to go back.