



Chapter

14

Medieval Japan

480-481 Orion Press/Getty Images

Kinkaku Temple in Kyoto, Japan ▼



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

When & Where?



A.D. 300

● **c. A.D. 300**
Yayoi people
organize
into clans

A.D. 700

● **A.D. 646**
Taika reforms
strengthen
emperor's powers

1100

● **1192**
Rule by
shoguns
begins

1500

● **c. 1300s**
Noh plays
first
performed



Chapter Preview

Warriors in Japan, like those in Africa, were known for their fighting skills. Japanese warriors trained their minds and bodies for battle. Read this chapter to find out about their training methods and how they are used today.



View the Chapter 14 video in the *World History: Journey Across Time* Video Program.

Section

1

Early Japan

Japan's islands and mountains have shaped its history. The Japanese developed their own unique culture but looked to China as a model.

Section

2

Shoguns and Samurai

Japan's emperors lost power to military leaders. Warrior families and their followers fought each other for control of Japan.

Section

3

Life in Medieval Japan

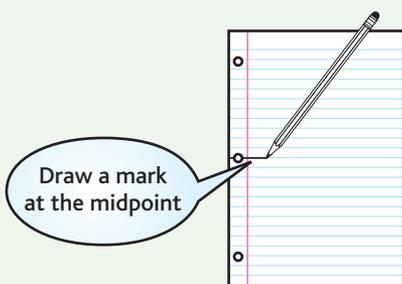
The religions of Shinto and Buddhism shaped Japan's culture. Farmers, artisans, and merchants brought wealth to Japan.

FOLDABLES™

Study Organizer

Categorizing Information Make this foldable to help you organize information about the history and culture of medieval Japan.

Step 1 Mark the midpoint of the side edge of a sheet of paper.

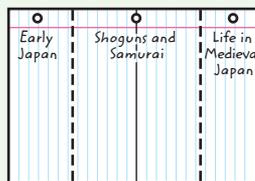


Step 2 Turn the paper and fold in each outside edge to touch at the midpoint. Label as shown.



Reading and Writing
As you read the chapter, organize your notes by writing the main ideas with supporting details under the appropriate tab.

Step 3 Open and label your foldable as shown.





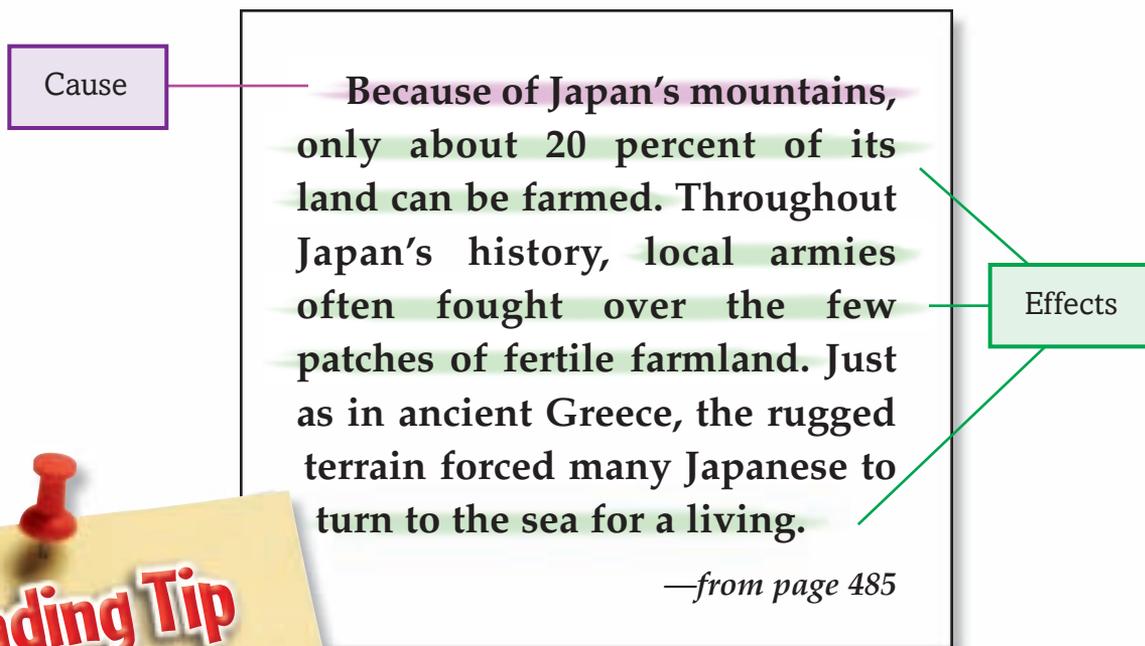
Reading Social Studies

Reading Skill
Cause and Effect

1 Learn It!

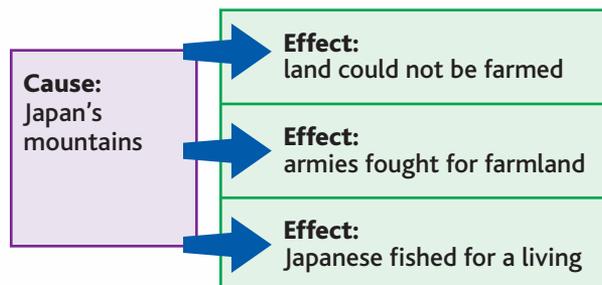
Identifying Cause and Effect

Learning to identify causes (reasons) and effects (results) will help you understand how and why things happen in history. Read the following passage and think about the result (effect) of Japan having mountains. Then see how the information can be pulled out and placed into a graphic organizer.



Reading Tip

Find different ways to organize information as you read. Create graphic organizers that suit your own learning style to help you make sense of what you are reading.



2 Practice It!

Using Graphic Organizers

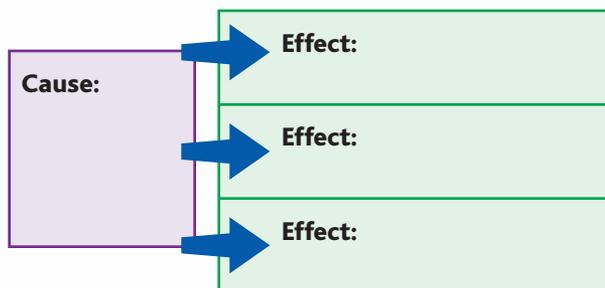
Read the following paragraph and either use the graphic organizer below or create your own to show the effects of Yoritomo's ruthless rule.

Yoritomo proved to be a ruthless ruler. He killed most of his relatives, fearing that they would try to take power from him. Yoritomo and the shoguns after him appointed high-ranking samurai to serve as advisers and to run the provinces. Bound by an oath of loyalty, these samurai lords ruled Japan's villages, kept the peace, and gathered taxes. They became the leading group in Japanese society.

—from page 495

Read to Write

After reading Section 2, write a paragraph that summarizes the reasons why the power of Japan's emperor declined during the A.D. 800s.



3 Apply It!

As you read Chapter 14, be aware of causes and effects in Japanese history. Find at least five causes and their effects, and create graphic organizers to record them.

Section

1

Early Japan

Get Ready to Read!

What's the Connection?

During the Middle Ages, another civilization developed in East Asia. It arose on the islands of Japan off the coast of the Korean Peninsula.

Focusing on the Main Ideas

- Japan's mountains and islands isolated Japan and shaped its society. (page 485)
- Japan was settled by people who came from northeast Asia. They were organized into clans and ruled by warriors. (page 486)
- Prince Shotoku created Japan's first constitution and borrowed many ideas from China. (page 488)
- The Japanese religion called Shinto was based on nature spirits. (page 490)

Locating Places

- Japan (juh•PAN)
- Hokkaido (hah•KY•doh)
- Honshu (HAHN•shoo)

Shikoku (shih•KOH•koo)

Kyushu (kee•OO•shoo)

Meeting People

Jomon (JOH•mohn)

Yayoi (YAH•yoy)

Jimmu (jeem•mu)

Shotoku (shoh•TOH•koo)

Building Your Vocabulary

clan (KLAN)

constitution

(KAHN•stuh•TOO•shuhn)

animism (A•nuh•MIH•zuhn)

shrine (SHRYN)

Reading Strategy

Organizing Information Create a diagram to show the basics of the Shinto religion.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

When & Where?



A.D. 300

- **c. A.D. 300**
Yayoi people organize into clans

A.D. 500

- **c. A.D. 550**
Yamato clan rules most of Japan

A.D. 700

- **A.D. 646**
Taika reforms strengthen emperor's powers



Japan's Geography

Main Idea Japan's mountains and islands isolated Japan and shaped its society.

Reading Focus Have you ever been in a place with no television, radio, or telephone? How would you feel if you did not know what was going on outside your home? Read to learn how Japan's geography isolated the Japanese and shaped their society.

Japan (juh•PAN) is a chain of islands that stretches north to south in the northern Pacific Ocean. Japan's islands number more than 3,000, and many of them are tiny. For centuries, most Japanese have lived on the four largest islands: **Hokkaido** (hah•KY•doh), **Honshu** (HAHN•shoo), **Shikoku** (shih•KOH•koo), and **Kyushu** (kee•OO•shoo).

Like China, much of Japan is covered by mountains. In fact, the islands of Japan are actually the tops of mountains that rise from the floor of the ocean. About 188 of Japan's mountains are volcanoes. Many earthquakes occur in Japan because the islands lie in an area where parts of the earth's surface often shift.

Because of Japan's mountains, only about 20 percent of its land can be farmed. Throughout Japan's history, local armies often fought over the few patches of fertile

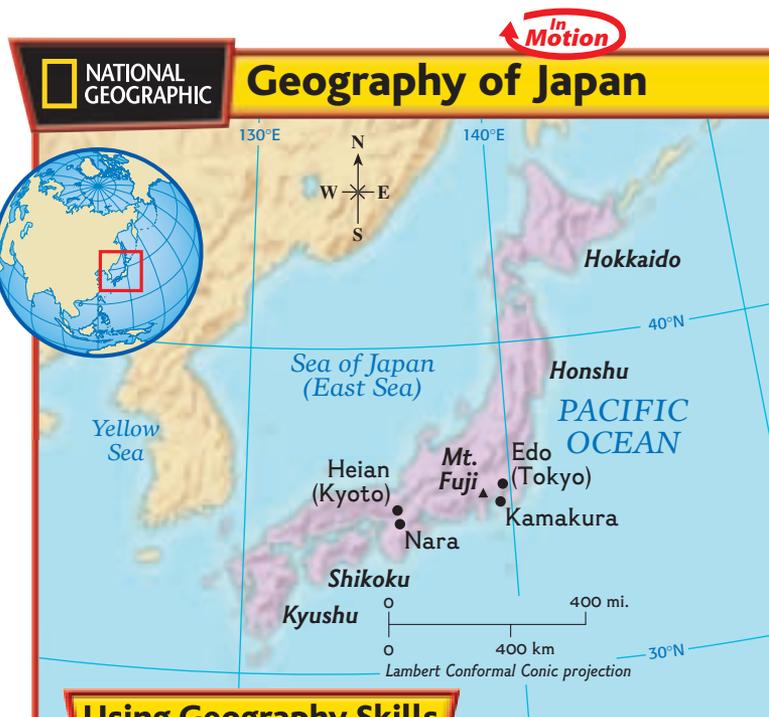
▼ **Mount Fuji is an important national symbol.**
How did the region's mountains affect early settlement in Japan?



farmland. Just as in ancient Greece, the rugged terrain forced many Japanese to turn to the sea for a living. Early on, they settled in villages along the coast and fished for food. Fish and seafood are still important in the Japanese diet.

The sea surrounding Japan's islands made it easy for people in ships to travel along the coast and from island to island. It encouraged people to become merchants, traveling from village to village with goods to trade. The vast ocean around Japan's islands, however, kept the Japanese people isolated, or separate, from the rest of Asia. As a result, Japan developed its own fiercely independent society with its own religion, art, literature, and government.

Reading Check Describe How did Japan's geography shape its society?



Using Geography Skills

Japan's geography isolated the country and helped form a unique culture.

1. List, from north to south, the four major islands that make up Japan.
2. What body of water separates Japan from mainland Asia?

Find NGS online map resources @ www.nationalgeographic.com/maps



The First Settlers

Main Idea Japan was settled by people who came from northeast Asia. They were organized into clans and ruled by warriors.

Reading Focus Do you have many relatives? Do your relatives all come together to do things? Read to learn how the early Japanese people were organized into groups made up of people who were all related to each other.

Japan's earliest people probably came from northeast Asia between 30,000 and 10,000 B.C. At that time, Japan was joined to the Asian continent by land. These early people hunted animals and gathered wild plants. They used fire and stone tools, and they lived in pits dug into the ground.

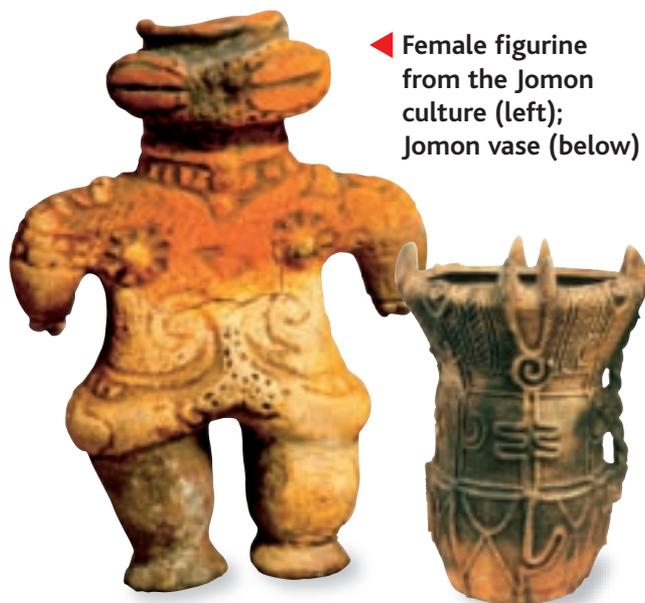
Who Were the Jomon? In about 5000 B.C., these wandering groups began to develop a culture. They made clay pottery, using knotted cords to make designs on the clay's surface. Today, this culture is called **Jomon** (JOH•mohn), which means "cord marks" in the Japanese language. Modern archaeologists have found many pieces of Jomon pottery throughout Japan. Over time, the

Jomon people settled in fishing villages along the coast. Fishing became their way of life.

Why Are the Yayoi Important? The Jomon culture lasted until about 300 B.C. At that time, a new group of people appeared in Japan. Modern archaeologists have named this culture **Yayoi** (YAH•yoy), after the place in Japan where they first dug up its artifacts.

The Yayoi were the ancestors of the Japanese people. They introduced farming to Japan and practiced a number of skills that they may have learned from the Chinese and Koreans. They made pottery on a potter's wheel and grew rice in paddies. A paddy is a rice field that is flooded when rice is planted and drained for the harvest.

The Yayoi also were skilled in metal-working. They made axes, knives, and hoes from iron, and swords, spears, and bells from bronze. Bells were used in religious rituals—a practice that is still common in Japan today.



◀ Female figurine from the Jomon culture (left); Jomon vase (below)

▶ Bronze bell from the Yayoi people (right); Yayoi pottery (below)





By A.D. 300, the Yayoi, or the early Japanese, had organized themselves into **clans** (KLANZ). A clan is a group of families related by blood or marriage. Yayoi clans were headed by a small group of warriors. Under the warriors were the rest of the people—farmers, artisans, and servants of the warriors. The clan’s warrior chiefs protected the people in return for a share of the rice harvest each year.

The Yayoi buried their chiefs in large mounds known as *kofun*. Made of dirt, these tombs were carefully shaped and surrounded by ditches. They were filled with personal belongings, such as pottery, tools, weapons, and armor. Many of the tombs were as big as Egypt’s pyramids. The largest tomb still stands today. It is longer than five football fields and at least eight stories high.

Who Are the Yamato? Like many other people whose society began in ancient times, the Japanese have myths, or stories that tell how things began. The most important myth explained the creation of Japan. It says that centuries ago, two gods dipped a spear into the sea. When they pulled it out, drops of salty water fell on the water’s surface and formed the islands of Japan. The two gods then created the sun goddess, Amaterasu, to rule over Earth. They also created the storm god, Susanowo, as her companion.

Susanowo was sent to Earth. There, his children became the first people of Japan. Amaterasu, however, sent her grandson Ninigi to rule over them. To make sure that everyone would accept his power, she gave Ninigi her mirror, her jewel, and a great sword. These objects became the sacred symbols of leadership in early Japan.

Historians today are not sure of the actual events on which this myth is based. However, they do know that during the



▲ The sun goddess, Amaterasu, emerges from her cave, bringing light into the world. **Which group claimed that they came from Amaterasu?**

A.D. 500s, a clan called the Yamato became strong enough to bring most of Japan under its rule. The other clans still held their lands, but they had to give their loyalty to the Yamato chief.

Yamato chiefs claimed that they came from the sun goddess and, therefore, had a right to rule Japan. Japanese legend states that a Yamato leader named **Jimmu** (jeem•mu) took the title “emperor of heaven.” He founded a line of rulers in Japan that has never been broken. Akihito (ah•kee•HEE•toh), who is Japan’s emperor today, is one of his descendants.

Reading Check Identify What do historians know for sure about the rise of the Yamato?



Prince Shotoku's Reforms

Main Idea Prince Shotoku created Japan's first constitution and borrowed many ideas from China.

Reading Focus When you try something new, are you tempted to use what someone else has done as a model? Read to find out how Shotoku used China as a model for his reforms in Japan.

About A.D. 600, a Yamato prince named **Shotoku** (shoh•TOH•koo) took charge of Japan on behalf of his aunt, the empress Suiko (swee•koh). He wanted to create a strong government, and he looked to China

as an example of what to do. You remember that in China, a powerful emperor ruled with the help of trained officials chosen for their abilities.

To reach this goal for Japan, Shotoku created a **constitution** (KAHN•stuh•TOO•shuhn), or a plan of government. Shotoku's constitution gave all power to the emperor, who had to be obeyed by the Japanese people. He also created a bureaucracy and gave the emperor the power to appoint all the officials. The constitution listed rules for working in the government. The rules were taken from the ideas of Confucius.

Shotoku also wanted Japan to learn from China's brilliant civilization. He sent officials and students to China to study. The Japanese not only learned about Buddhist teachings but also absorbed a great deal about Chinese art, medicine, and philosophy.

Shotoku ordered Buddhist temples and monasteries to be built throughout Japan. One of them, called Horyuji (HOHR•yoo•JEE), still stands. It is Japan's oldest temple and the world's oldest surviving wooden building.

After Shotoku, other officials continued to make Japan's government look like China's. In A.D. 646 the Yamato began the Taika, or Great Change. They divided Japan into provinces, or regional districts, all run by officials who reported to the emperor. In addition, all land in Japan came under the emperor's control.

Clan leaders could direct the farmers working the land, but they could not collect taxes anymore. Instead, government officials were to gather part of the farmers' harvest in taxes for the emperor. Together with Shotoku's reforms, this plan created Japan's first strong central government.

Reading Check Identify What happened during the Great Change?

Primary Source

Japan's New Constitution

This is part of the constitution created by Shotoku.

"Harmony is to be cherished, and opposition for opposition's sake must be avoided as a matter of principle. . . .

When an imperial command is given, obey it with reverence. The sovereign is likened to heaven, and his subjects are likened to earth. With heaven providing the cover and earth supporting it, the four seasons proceed in orderly fashion, giving sustenance to all that which is in nature. If earth attempts to overtake the functions of heaven, it destroys everything.

Cast away your ravenous desire for food and abandon your covetousness [envy] for material possessions. If a suit is brought before you, render a clear-cut judgement. . . .

Punish that which is evil and encourage that which is good."

—Prince Shotoku,
"The Seventeen Article Constitution"

DBQ Document-Based Question

To what are the emperor and his subjects compared?

Biography

PRINCE SHOTOKU

A.D. 573–621

Prince Shotoku was born into the powerful Soga family, as the second son of Emperor Yomei. Shotoku's real name is Umayado, which means "the prince of the stable door." According to legend, Shotoku's mother gave birth to him while she was inspecting the emperor's stables. During Shotoku's childhood, Japan was a society of clans, or large extended families. There was fighting between Shotoku's own Soga family and their rival, the Mononobe family. The Soga and Mononobe clans were Japan's two most powerful families, and each wanted to rule Japan.

Shotoku was a very bright, articulate child. He learned about Buddhism from one of his great uncles. He then studied with two Buddhist priests and became devoted to Buddhism.

At the age of 20, Shotoku became Japan's crown prince. The early teachings of Buddhism strongly influenced his leadership. He introduced political and religious reforms that helped build a strong central government in Japan modeled after China. At the request of his aunt, the empress, Shotoku often spoke about Buddhism and the process of enlightenment.

He also wrote the first book of Japanese history.

When Prince Shotoku died, the elderly people of the empire mourned as if they had lost a dear child of their own. A written account describes their words of grief: "The sun and moon have lost their brightness; heaven and earth have crumbled to ruin: henceforward, in whom shall we put our trust?"



▲ Statue believed to be of Prince Shotoku



▲ The Horyuji temple, built by Prince Shotoku

Then and Now

Think of a recent leader or other public figure whose death caused people to mourn as if they knew that person well. Who is it? Why do you think people identified with that person? Why did the Japanese identify so closely with Shotoku?



What Is Shinto?

Main Idea The Japanese religion, called Shinto, was based on nature spirits.

Reading Focus Today we know the importance of protecting the environment. Why is nature important to us? Read to learn why the early Japanese thought nature was important.



◀ Shinto priests

Like many ancient peoples, the early Japanese believed that all natural things are alive, even the winds, the mountains, and the rivers. They believed that all of these things have their own spirits. This idea is called **animism** (A•nuh•mih•zuhl). When people needed help, they asked the nature spirits, whom they called *kami*, to help them.

To honor the *kami*, the Japanese worshipped at **shrines** (SHRYNZ), or holy places. There, priests, musicians, and dancers performed rituals for people who asked the

gods for a good harvest, a wife or a child, or some other favor.

These early Japanese beliefs developed into the religion of Shinto. The word *Shinto* means “way of the spirits,” and many Japanese still follow Shinto today. Followers believe the *kami* will help only if a person is pure. Many things, such as illness, cause spiritual stains that must be cleansed by bathing and other rituals before praying.

Reading Check Explain How did the Japanese honor the *kami*?

Section 1 Review

History online

Study Central™ Need help with the material in this section? Visit jat.glencoe.com

Reading Summary

Review the Main Ideas

- Japan’s mountainous islands contain little land for farming, leading many people to turn to the sea for a living.
- Japan was settled by people from northeast Asia, organized into clans and ruled by warriors.
- While ruling Japan, Prince Shotoku made the emperor a strong ruler and set up a government similar to China’s.
- Japan’s first religion, Shinto, was based on the idea of nature spirits called *kami*.

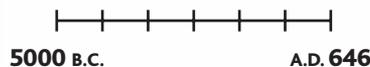
What Did You Learn?

1. What skills did the Yayoi practice that they may have learned from the Chinese and Koreans?
2. In the Shinto religion, what do people worship? How are they worshiped?

Critical Thinking

3. Sequencing Information

Draw a time line like the one below. Fill in dates and information related to events in Japanese history from the Jomon to Shotoku.



4. **Summarize** Describe Japanese society under the Yayoi around A.D. 300.
5. **Analyze** In what ways did Shotoku look to China to improve Japan?
6. **Expository Writing** Imagine you are visiting Japan sometime in the A.D. 300s. Write a letter to a friend describing what you have observed and learned about the Shinto religion.
7. **Reading Cause and Effect** Create a cause-and-effect graphic organizer that shows how geography affected the early development of Japan.

Section

2

Shoguns and Samurai

Get Ready to Read!

What's the Connection?

In the last section, you learned how Japan's leaders looked to China as a model of government. As you have learned, warlords sometimes took over parts of China. As you will read, Japan had similar problems.

Focusing on the **Main Ideas**

- During the A.D. 700s, Japan built a strong national government at Nara, and Buddhism became a popular religion. (page 492)
- Japan's civilian government and the emperor came to be dominated by military rulers known as shoguns. (page 493)
- As the shogun's power weakened, Japan broke into warring kingdoms run by rulers known as daimyo. (page 496)

Locating Places

Heian (HAY•ahn)

Kamakura (kah•MAH•kuh•RAH)

Meeting People

Minamoto Yoritomo (mee•nah•moh•toh yoh•ree•toh•moh)

Ashikaga Takauji (ah•shee•kah•gah tah•kow•jee)

Building Your Vocabulary

samurai (SA•muh•RY)

shogun (SHOH•guhnh)

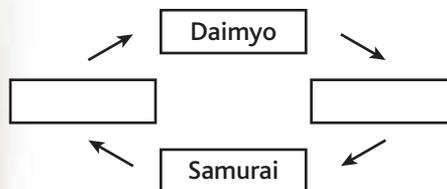
daimyo (DY•mee•OH)

vassal (VA•suhl)

feudalism (FYOO•duhl•IH•zuhm)

Reading Strategy

Showing Relationships Create a diagram to show the relationship between daimyo and samurai.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

When & Where?



A.D. 700

A.D. 794

Japan's capital moved to Heian

1100

1192

Rule by shoguns begins

1500

1477

Civil war ends in Japan



Nara Japan

Main Idea During the A.D. 700s, Japan built a strong national government at Nara, and Buddhism became a popular religion.

Reading Focus Do you know people who got their jobs because they were friends with the boss or because the boss knew their families? Read to learn how Japan's emperor chose people for government jobs.

In the early A.D. 700s, Japan's emperors built a new capital city called Nara. For the next 100 years, Nara was the center of government and religion in Japan. Because of Nara's importance, the history of Japan during the A.D. 700s is called the Nara Period.

The city of Nara looked much like China's capital of Changan, only smaller. It had broad streets, large public squares, government offices, Buddhist temples, and Shinto shrines. Nobles and their families lived in large, Chinese-style homes. The typical home of a noble had wooden walls,

a heavy tile roof, and polished wooden floors. It also included an inner garden.

The Emperor's Government At Nara, Japanese emperors added to the changes begun by Prince Shotoku. They organized government officials into ranks, or levels of importance from top to bottom. However, unlike China, Japan did not use examinations to hire officials. Instead, the emperor gave the jobs to nobles from powerful families. Once a person was appointed to a job, he could pass on his office to his son or other relatives. For their services, top government officials received estates, or large farms. They also were given farmers to work the land.

The emperor's power came from his control of the land and its crops. To measure Japan's wealth, the government carried out a census. It counted all the people in the country. The census also listed the lands on which people lived and worked. Based on the census results, all people who held land from the emperor had to pay taxes in rice or silk cloth. The men counted in the census had to serve in the army.

Buddhism Spreads in Japan At the same time that the emperor's government was growing strong, Buddhism became popular in Japan. Buddhism came to Japan from Korea in the A.D. 500s. Japanese government officials and nobles were the first to accept the new religion. Then, during the A.D. 600s and A.D. 700s, Buddhism spread rapidly among the common people. It soon became a major religion in Japan and had an important role in government and society.

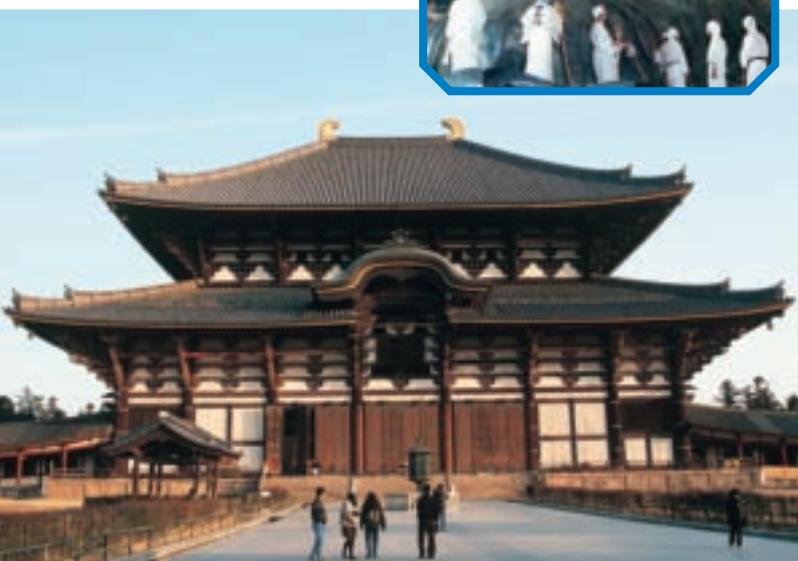
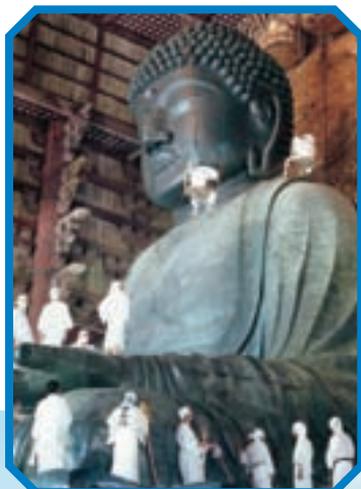
As Buddhism became more powerful, nobles who were not Buddhists began to oppose the religion. Soon, those who backed Buddhism and those who opposed it were fighting for control of the government.



▲ Built in the early A.D. 600s, the Horyuji temple in Nara, Japan, is the oldest wooden building in the world.



Inside the ►
 Todaiji temple is
 Japan's largest
 statue of the
 Buddha. It is
 made of copper
 and gold, weighs
 250 tons, and is
 nearly 50 feet tall.



▲ The Todaiji temple was first built in A.D. 752 to serve as the head temple for Buddhism in Japan. It is the world's largest wooden structure. This reconstruction was built in 1692.

In A.D. 770 a Buddhist monk who served in the government tried to seize the throne and become emperor. He was stopped by the emperor's family and leading nobles.

Frightened by this event, the emperor and his family briefly turned away from Buddhism. Remember how the government in China attacked Buddhist monasteries when they became strong? In Japan, instead of attacking the Buddhists, the emperor simply decided to leave Nara and its many Buddhist monks.

✔ **Reading Check Contrast** How was the Japanese system of hiring officials different from the Chinese system?

The Rise of the Shogun

Main Idea Japan's civilian government and the emperor came to be dominated by military rulers known as shoguns.

Reading Focus Every leader promises certain things to the people in return for their support. In the United States, what promises do politicians make to win votes? Read to learn how Japan's nobles increased their power by giving land in return for people's support.

In A.D. 794, Emperor Kammu of Japan began building a new capital city called **Heian** (HAY•ahn). This city later became known as Kyoto (kee•OH•toh). Like Nara, Heian was modeled on the Chinese city of Changan. It remained the official capital of Japan for more than 1,000 years.

The Government Weakens During the A.D. 800s, the emperor's power declined. Why did this happen? After a time of strong emperors, a number of weak emperors came to the throne. Many of these emperors were still only children, and court officials known as regents had to govern for them. A regent is a person who rules for an emperor who is too young or too sick to rule. When the emperors grew up, however, the regents refused to give up their power.

Most regents came from a clan called the Fujiwara. Under the Fujiwara, Japan's emperors were honored, but they no longer had real power. Instead of ruling, these emperors spent time studying Buddhism or writing poetry in their palace at Heian.

History Online

Web Activity Visit jat.glencoe.com and click on *Chapter 14—Student Web Activity* to learn more about medieval Japan.



As the Fujiwara grew wealthy and powerful in Heian, other powerful nobles gained control of much of the land in the provinces of Japan. This happened because the government gave the nobles lands as a way to pay them for their work. At the same time, new lands were settled as Japan's empire expanded. The nobles who settled farmers on these lands were allowed to keep the lands.

To keep the nobles happy, the government let them stop paying taxes, but it put them in charge of governing the lands under their control. In order to govern their lands, the nobles began collecting more taxes from the peasants working the land.

Who Were the Samurai? To protect their lands and enforce the law, nobles formed private armies. To create their armies, they gave land to warriors who agreed to fight for them. These warriors became known as **samurai** (SA•muh•RY).

In battle, samurai fought on horseback with swords, daggers, and bows and arrows. They wore armor made of leather or steel scales laced together with silk cords. Their helmets had horns or crests, and they wore masks designed to be terrifying.

The word *samurai* means “to serve.” The samurai lived by a strict code of conduct. It was called Bushido, or “the way of the warrior.” This code demanded that a samurai be loyal to his master as well as courageous, brave, and honorable. Samurai were not supposed to care for wealth. They regarded merchants as lacking in honor.

Pledged to these principles, a samurai would rather die in battle than betray his lord. He also did not want to suffer the disgrace of being captured in battle. The sense of loyalty that set apart the samurai continued into modern times. During World War II, many Japanese soldiers fought to the death rather than accept defeat or capture. Since that conflict, the Japanese have turned away from the military beliefs of the samurai.

What Is a Shogun? By the early 1100s, the most powerful Japanese families had begun fighting each other using their samurai armies. They fought over land and to gain control over the emperor and his government. In 1180 the Gempei War began.

The Gempei War was a civil war between the two most powerful clans: the Taira family and the Minamoto



▲ At first, most samurai fought on horseback. Later samurai were foot soldiers who fought with a variety of weapons. **What was the samurai code of conduct called?**

family. In 1185 the Minamoto forces defeated the Taira in a sea battle near the island of Shikoku.

The leader of the Minamoto was a man named **Minamoto Yoritomo** (mee•nah•moh•toh yoh•ree•toh•moh). (In Japanese a person's family name comes first, followed by the personal name.) Yoritomo was the commander of the Minamoto armies. After Yoritomo won the Gempei War, the emperor worried that the Minamoto family would try to replace the Yamato family as the rulers of Japan. He decided it would be better to reward Yoritomo to keep him loyal.

In 1192 the emperor gave Yoritomo the title of **shogun** (SHOH•guhnh)—commander of all of the emperor's military forces. This decision created two governments in Japan. The emperor stayed in his palace at Heian with his bureaucracy. He was still officially the head of the country, but he had no power. Meanwhile the shogun set up his own government at his headquarters in **Kamakura** (kah•MAH•kuh•RAH), a small seaside town. This military government was known as a shogunate. Japan's government was run by a series of shoguns for the next 700 years.

Yoritomo proved to be a ruthless ruler. He killed most of his relatives, fearing that they would try to take power from him. Yoritomo and the shoguns after him appointed high-ranking samurai to serve as advisers and to run the provinces. Bound by an oath of loyalty, these samurai lords ruled Japan's villages, kept the peace, and gathered taxes. They became the leading group in Japanese society.

The Mongols Attack In the late 1200s, the Kamakura shogunate faced its greatest test. In 1274 and again in 1281, China's Mongol emperor Kublai Khan sent out ships and

Primary Source

Bushido Code

This passage describes the samurai's Bushido.



"It is further good fortune if . . . [a servant] had wisdom and talent and can use them appropriately. But even a person who is good for nothing . . . will be a reliable retainer [servant] if only he has the determination to think earnestly of [respect and admire] his master. Having only wisdom and talent is the lowest tier [level] of usefulness."

—Yamamoto Tsunetomo,
*Hagakure: The Book of
the Samurai*

◀ Samurai armor

DBQ Document-Based Question

How powerful is a samurai's determination to respect and admire his master?

warriors to invade Japan. Both times, the Mongols were defeated because violent Pacific storms smashed many of their ships. The Mongol troops who made it ashore were defeated by the Japanese.

The victorious Japanese named the typhoons *kamikaze* (KAH•mih•KAH•zee), or "divine wind," in honor of the spirits they believed had saved their islands. Much later, during World War II, Japanese pilots deliberately crashed their planes into enemy ships. They were named kamikaze pilots after the typhoons of the 1200s.

Reading Check Identify Who was the shogun, and why was he important?



The Way It Was

Focus on Everyday Life

Samurai The path to becoming a samurai was difficult and dangerous. Mothers in samurai families began teaching their sons Bushido at a young age. They taught their sons to place bravery, honor, and loyalty above all else. Each young warrior knew and could recite from memory the brave feats of his samurai ancestors.

For centuries, young samurai lived apart from their families in the castle of their lord or in the barracks of their lord's town. Beginning in the 1800s, samurai schools were built, and boys lived there to continue the educations their mothers had started. From the age of 10, they trained in the martial arts and studied other subjects, such as math and astronomy. By the age of 16, many were warriors.



Painting of a samurai hero ▶

Connecting to the Past

1. What lessons was the mother of a samurai responsible for teaching her young son?
2. Do you think soldiers today have a code of conduct similar to Bushido? Explain.

The Daimyo Divide Japan

Bettmann/CORBIS

Main Idea As the shogun's power weakened, Japan broke into warring kingdoms run by rulers known as daimyo.

Reading Focus Have you ever been promised something and then been upset when the promise was broken? Read to learn how Japan's shogun lost power because the samurai felt he had broken his promises.

The Kamakura shogunate ruled Japan until 1333. By that time, many samurai had become resentful. Over the years, as samurai divided their lands among their sons, the piece of land each samurai owned became smaller and smaller. By the 1300s, many samurai felt they no longer owed the shogun loyalty because he had not given them enough land.

In 1331 the emperor rebelled, and many samurai came to his aid. The revolt succeeded, but the emperor was not able to gain control of Japan because he too refused to give more land to the samurai. Instead, a general named **Ashikaga Takauji** (ah•shee•kah•gah tah•kow•jee) turned against the emperor and made himself shogun in 1333. A new government known as the Ashikaga shogunate began.

The Ashikaga shoguns proved to be weak rulers, and revolts broke out across Japan. The country soon divided into a number of small territories. These areas were headed by powerful military lords known as **daimyo** (DY•mee•OH).

The daimyo pledged loyalty to the emperor and the shogun. However, they ruled their lands as if they were independent kingdoms. To protect their lands, the daimyo created their own local armies made up of samurai warriors, just as other nobles had done in the past.

Many samurai became **vassals** (VA•suhlz) of a daimyo. That is, a samurai gave an oath



of loyalty to his daimyo and promised to serve him in times of war. In return, each daimyo gave land to his samurai warriors—more land than they had been given by the shogun. This bond of loyalty between a lord and a vassal is known as **feudalism** (FYOO•duhl•IH•zuhl). In the next chapter, you will learn about a similar form of feudalism that arose in Europe during the Middle Ages.

With the breakdown of central government, Japan's warriors fought each other. From 1467 to 1477, the country suffered through the disastrous Onin War. During this conflict, the city of Kyoto (Heian) was almost completely destroyed. Armies passed back and forth through the city, burning temples and palaces.

For 100 years after the Onin War, a series of weak shoguns tried to reunite Japan. Powerful daimyo, however, resisted their



▲ The Takamatsu castle was built in 1590. It sits on the edge of a sea and was once surrounded by moats, gates, and towers for protection.

control. Fighting spread throughout the country. The violence finally brought down the Ashikaga shogunate in 1567. By that time, only a handful of powerful daimyo remained. Each of these daimyo was eager to defeat his rivals and rule all of Japan.

Reading Check Analyze Why were shoguns unable to regain control of Japan after the Onin War?

Section 2 Review

History Online
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Reading Summary

Review the Main Ideas

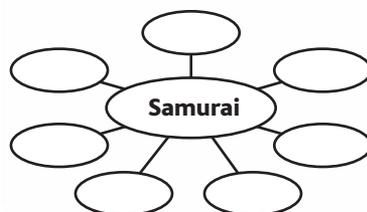
- During the Nara Period, the emperor's power grew, and Buddhism spread among Japan's common people.
- Over time, the Japanese emperors lost power to nobles and their armies of samurai. Eventually a military ruler, called a shogun, ruled the country.
- In the 1400s and 1500s, the shoguns lost power, and military lords, called daimyo, divided Japan into a number of small territories.

What Did You Learn?

1. What was a shogun? Who was the first shogun, and how did he gain his position of power?
2. What prevented the Mongol conquest of Japan?
4. **Describe** Describe events related to the growth of Buddhism in Japan.
5. **Explain** Why did the power of the Japanese emperors decline during the A.D. 800s?

Critical Thinking

3. **Organizing Information**
 Draw a diagram like the one below. Add details about the samurai, such as their weapons, dress, and beliefs.



6. **Analyze** How did the beliefs of the samurai affect Japanese soldiers in World War II?
7. **Expository Writing** Create a constitution, or plan for government, that describes the relationship between the emperor and shogun, the daimyo, and the samurai.

Section

3

Life in Medieval Japan

Get Ready to Read!

What's the Connection?

In the last section, you learned how warriors known as shoguns and samurai came to rule Japan. During that time, the Japanese suffered from many wars. However, Japan's economy continued to grow, and its people produced beautiful art, architecture, and literature.

Focusing on the Main Ideas

- Buddhism and Shinto shaped much of Japan's culture. These religions affected Japanese art, architecture, novels, and plays. (page 499)
- Some Japanese nobles, merchants, and artisans grew wealthy during the shogun period, but the lives of women remained restricted in many areas of life. (page 503)

Locating Places

Kyoto (kee•OH•toh)

Meeting People

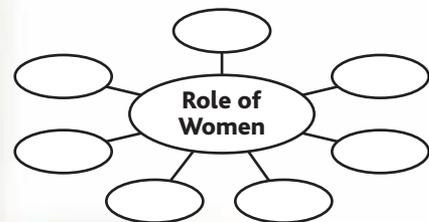
Murasaki Shikibu (MUR•uh•SAH•kee shee•kee•boo)

Building Your Vocabulary

- sect** (SEHKT)
- martial arts** (MAHR•shuhl)
- meditation** (MEH•duh•TAY•shuhn)
- calligraphy** (kuh•LIH•gruh•fee)
- tanka** (TAHNG•kuh)
- guild** (GIHLD)

Reading Strategy

Summarizing Information Complete a diagram like the one below describing the role of women in the families of medieval Japan.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

When & Where?



1000

c. 1000
Lady Murasaki Shikibu writes *The Tale of Genji*

1200

c. 1100s
Zen Buddhism spreads in Japan

1400

c. 1300s
Noh plays first performed



Japanese Religion and Culture

Main Idea Buddhism and Shinto shaped much of Japan’s culture. These religions affected Japanese art, architecture, novels, and plays.

Reading Focus Have you ever seen paintings, sculptures, and works of literature that have religious subjects or messages? In medieval Japan, the religions of Shinto and Buddhism greatly influenced the arts.

During the Middle Ages, religion was a part of everyday life for the Japanese. Most Japanese came to believe in both Buddhism and Shinto, and worshiped at Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples. To them, each religion met different needs. Shinto was concerned with daily life, while Buddhism prepared people for the life to come. During the Middle Ages, Buddhist ideas inspired many Japanese to build temples, produce paintings, and write poems and plays.

Pure Land Buddhism As you have already learned, Mahayana Buddhism began in India and spread to China and Korea. By the time Buddhism reached Japan, it had developed into many different **sects** (SEHKTS), or smaller religious groups.

One of the most important sects in Japan was Pure Land Buddhism. Pure Land Buddhism was a type of Mahayana Buddhism. It won many followers in Japan because of its message about a happy life after death. Pure Land Buddhists looked to Lord Amida, a buddha of love and mercy. They believed Amida had founded a paradise above the clouds. To get there, all they had to do was have faith in Amida and chant his name.

What Is Zen Buddhism? Another important Buddhist sect in Japan was Zen. Buddhist monks brought Zen to Japan from China during the 1100s. Zen taught that



▲ A Zen monk sits beside a Japanese rock garden while meditating. *What is the purpose of meditation?*

people could find inner peace through self-control and a simple way of life.

Followers of Zen learned to control their bodies through **martial arts** (MAHR•shuhl), or sports that involved combat and self-defense. This appealed to the samurai, who trained to fight bravely and fearlessly.

Followers of Zen Buddhism also practiced **meditation** (MEH•duh•TAY•shuhn). In meditation, a person sat cross-legged and motionless for hours, with the mind cleared of all thoughts and desires. Meditation helped people to relax and find inner peace.

Art and Architecture During the Middle Ages, the Japanese borrowed artistic ideas from China and Korea. Then, they went on to develop their own styles. The arts of Japan revealed the Japanese love of beauty and simplicity.

During the Middle Ages, artisans in Japan made wooden statues, furniture, and



Linking Past & Present

Martial Arts

THEN According to legend, the Chinese monks who brought martial arts to Japan in the 1100s learned them from an Indian monk named Bodhidharma. In the sixth century, he traveled to China and found monks at a temple who were weak and sleepy from meditation, so he taught them martial arts to strengthen their bodies. Over time, many forms of martial arts developed.



▲ Figurine of Bodhidharma

▼ Modern-day martial artist



NOW Martial arts remain popular and respected. Current forms include karate, jujitsu, and aikido from Japan; kung fu from China; and tae kwon do from Korea. *What sports or activities do you participate in that help strengthen your mind and body?*

household items. On many of their works, they used a shiny black and red coating called lacquer. From the Chinese, Japanese artists learned to do landscape painting. Using ink or watercolors, they painted scenes of nature or battles on paper scrolls or on silk. Japanese nobles at the emperor's court learned to fold paper to make decorative objects. This art of folding paper is called origami. They also arranged flowers. Buddhist monks and the samurai turned tea drinking into a beautiful ceremony.

Builders in Japan used Chinese or Japanese styles. Shinto shrines were built in

the Japanese style near a sacred rock, tree, or other natural feature that they considered beautiful. Usually a shrine was a wooden building, with a single room and a roof made of rice straw. People entered the shrine through a sacred gate called a torii.

Unlike Shinto shrines, Buddhist temples were built in the Chinese style. They had massive tiled roofs held up by thick, wooden pillars. The temples were richly decorated. They had many statues, paintings, and altars.

Around their buildings, the Japanese created gardens designed to imitate nature



in a miniature form. Some of these gardens had carefully placed rocks, raked sand, and a few plants. They were built this way to create a feeling of peace and calmness.

Poems and Plays During the A.D. 500s, the Japanese borrowed China’s writing system. They wrote their language in Chinese picture characters that stood for whole words. Because the Japanese and Chinese languages were so different, the Japanese found it difficult to use these characters. Then, in the A.D. 800s, they added symbols that stood for sounds, much like the letters of an alphabet. This addition made reading and writing much easier.

Calligraphy (kuh•LIH•gruh•fee), the art of writing beautifully, was much admired in Japan. Every well-educated person was expected to practice it. A person’s handwriting was considered to reveal much about his or her education, social standing, and character.

During the Middle Ages, the Japanese wrote poems, stories, and plays. Japan’s oldest form of poetry was the **tanka** (TAHNG•kuh). It was an unrhymed poem of five lines. Tanka poems capture nature’s beauty and the joys and sorrows of life. The following tanka was written by an anonymous poet:

“On autumn nights
the dew is
colder than ever—
in every clump of grasses
the insects weep”
—author unknown,
tanka from the *Kokinshū*

Women living in Heian wrote Japan’s first great stories around 1000. One woman,

Lady **Murasaki Shikibu** (MUR•uh•SAH•kee shee•kee•boo), wrote *The Tale of Genji*. This work describes the adventures of a Japanese prince. Some people believe the work is the world’s first novel, or long fictional story.

About 200 years later, Japan’s writers turned out stirring tales about warriors in battle. The greatest collection was *The Tale of Heike*. It describes the fight between the Taira and the Minamoto clans.

The Japanese also created plays. The oldest type of play is called Noh. Created during the 1300s, Noh plays were used to teach Buddhist ideas. Noh plays were performed on a simple, bare stage. The actors wore masks and elaborate robes. They danced, gestured, and chanted poetry to the music of drums and flutes.

Reading Check Analyze How are martial arts and meditation connected to Zen Buddhism’s principle of self-control?



▲ Noh masks like these were often carved from a single piece of wood and were lightweight, so an actor could wear it for several hours. **Why were Noh plays performed?**

Biography

MURASAKI SHIKIBU

c. A.D. 973–1025

Murasaki Shikibu was a great novelist and poet of the Japanese Heian period. She was one of the first modern novelists. Murasaki became famous from writing *The Tale of Genji*, but her work also included a diary and over 120 poems.

Murasaki was born into the Fujiwara clan, a noble family but not a rich family. Her father was a scholar and a governor. In fact, the name Shikibu refers to her father's position at court. Murasaki's mother and older sister died when she was a child. Traditionally, children were raised by the mother and her family, but Murasaki's father decided to raise his daughter himself. He broke another custom by educating his daughter in Chinese language and literature, subjects reserved for boys.

Murasaki married and had a daughter, but her husband died after only a few years of marriage. Around that time, Murasaki began writing *The Tale of Genji* and working as an attendant to Empress Akiko. She based the novel on life at court, which she knew about through her father's job and her own. The last reference to her is in 1014, but many scholars believe that she lived for about a decade after that.

Much about Murasaki's life—and life at the emperor's palace—is revealed in her diary. This excerpt describes the preparations for a celebration honoring the birth of a new prince:

“Even the sight of the lowest menials [servants], chattering to each other as they walked round lighting the fire baskets under the trees by the lake and arranging the food in the garden, seemed to add to the sense of occasion. Torchbearers stood everywhere at attention and the scene was as bright as day.”

—Murasaki Shikibu,
The Diary of Lady Murasaki



▲ Murasaki Shikibu



▲ Scene from
The Tale of Genji

Then and Now

Do you keep a diary? What might you and your classmates record in a diary that would be useful to people a few centuries from now?



Economy and Society

Main Idea Some Japanese nobles, merchants, and artisans grew wealthy during the shogun period, but the lives of women remained restricted in many areas of life.

Reading Focus What determines whether a person is wealthy or poor? Read to find what contributed to the growing wealth of Japan.

Under the shoguns, Japan not only developed its arts but also produced more goods and grew richer. However, only a small number of Japanese benefited from this wealth. This group included the emperor, the nobles at his court, and leading military officials. A small but growing class of merchants and traders also began to prosper. Most Japanese, however, were farmers who remained poor.

Farmers and Artisans Much of Japan’s wealth came from the hard work of its farmers. Japanese farmers grew rice, wheat, millet, and barley. Some had their own land, but most lived and worked on the daimyo estates. Despite hardships, life did improve for Japan’s farmers during the 1100s. They used better irrigation and planted more crops. As a result, they could

send more food to the markets that were developing in the towns.

At the same time, the Japanese were producing more goods. Artisans on the daimyo estates began making weapons, armor, and tools. Merchants sold these items in town markets throughout Japan. New roads made travel and trade much easier. As trade increased, each region focused on making goods that it could best produce. These goods included pottery, paper, textiles, and lacquered ware. All of these new products helped Japan’s economy grow.

As the capital, **Kyoto** (kee•OH•toh) became a major center of production and trade. Many artisans and merchants settled there. They formed groups called **guilds** (GIHLDZ) (or *za* in Japanese) to protect and increase their profits. The members of these guilds relied on a wealthy daimyo to protect them from rival artisans. They sold the daimyo goods that he could not get from his country estates.

Japan’s wealth also came from increased trade with Korea, China, and Southeast Asia. Japanese merchants exchanged lacquered goods, sword blades, and copper for silk, dyes, pepper, books, and porcelain.



◀ This painting shows Japanese farmers working the land. **What were some crops grown by medieval Japanese farmers?**



The Role of Women During the Middle Ages, a Japanese family included grandparents, parents, and children in the same household. A man headed the family and had total control over family members. A woman was expected to obey her father, husband, and son. In wealthy families, parents arranged the marriages of their children to increase the family's wealth.

In early Japan, about the time of Prince Shotoku, wealthy women enjoyed a high position in society. There were several women rulers, and women could own property. When Japan became a warrior society with samurai and daimyo, upper-class women lost these freedoms.

In farming families, women had a greater say in whom they married. However, they worked long hours in the fields planting or harvesting rice. In addition, they cooked, spun and wove cloth, and cared for their children. In the towns, the wives of artisans and merchants helped with family businesses

and ran their homes. The wives of merchants were perhaps the best off.

Despite the lack of freedom, some women managed to contribute to Japan's culture. These talented women gained fame as artists, writers, and even warriors. In *The Tale of the Heike*, one female samurai named Tomoe is described this way:

“Tomoe was indescribably beautiful; the fairness of her face and the richness of her hair were startling to behold. Even so, she was a fearless rider and a woman skilled with the bow. Once her sword was drawn, even the gods . . . feared to fight against her. Indeed, she was a match for a thousand.”

—Heike Monogatori,
The Tale of the Heike

Reading Check Identify Which groups in Japan benefited from the country's wealth?

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Section 3 Review

Reading Summary

Review the Main Ideas

- In medieval Japan, several forms of Buddhism, along with Shinto, were practiced, and the arts, architecture, and literature flourished.
- During the time of the shoguns, Japan's economy grew stronger. In the family, women lost some of their freedoms as Japan became a warrior society.

What Did You Learn?

1. How did the Shinto and Buddhist religions meet different needs in Japan?
2. What were Noh plays, and how were they performed?
4. **Describe** How did guilds benefit artisans and daimyos?
5. **Analyze** Why do you think women lost some of their freedoms when Japan became a warrior society?

Critical Thinking

3. Organizing Information

Draw a table like the one shown. Add details to show the characteristics of Pure Land Buddhism and Zen Buddhism.

Pure Land Buddhism	Zen Buddhism

6. **Descriptive Writing** Write a brief article for a travel magazine describing the architecture of Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples in Japan during the Middle Ages.

Chapter 14

Reading Review



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Section 1 Early Japan

Vocabulary

clan
constitution
animism
shrine

Focusing on the Main Ideas

- Japan's mountains and islands isolated Japan and shaped its society. (page 485)
- Japan was settled by people who came from northeast Asia. They were organized into clans and ruled by warriors. (page 486)
- Prince Shotoku created Japan's first constitution and borrowed many ideas from China. (page 488)
- The Japanese religion, called Shinto, was based on nature spirits. (page 490)

Section 2 Shoguns and Samurai

Vocabulary

samurai
shogun
daimyo
vassal
feudalism

Focusing on the Main Ideas

- During the A.D. 700s, Japan built a strong national government at Nara, and Buddhism became a popular religion. (page 492)
- Japan's civilian government and the emperor came to be dominated by military rulers known as shoguns. (page 493)
- As the shogun's power weakened, Japan broke into warring kingdoms run by rulers known as daimyo. (page 496)

Section 3 Life in Medieval Japan

Vocabulary

sect
martial arts
meditation
calligraphy
tanka
guild

Focusing on the Main Ideas

- Buddhism and Shinto shaped much of Japan's culture. These religions affected Japanese art, architecture, novels, and plays. (page 499)
- Some Japanese nobles, merchants, and artisans grew wealthy during the shogun period, but the lives of women remained restricted in many areas of life. (page 503)



Murasaki Shikibu ►

Assessment and Activities

Review Vocabulary

Write the key term that completes each sentence.

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| a. tanka | e. shogun |
| b. daimyo | f. guilds |
| c. clans | g. samurai |
| d. sects | h. meditation |

- The ___ was the military leader of Japan.
- Many artisans and merchants formed ___ for protection and profit.
- The Yayoi formed ___ that were headed by a small group of warriors.
- In ___, a person clears the mind of all thoughts and desires.
- The ___ is an unrhymed poem of five lines.
- Each vassal gave an oath of loyalty to his ___.
- The private armies of Japanese nobles were made up of ___.
- Buddhism was divided into many different ___.

Review Main Ideas

Section 1 • Early Japan

- How did geography shape Japanese society?
- How did Shotoku use Chinese government and culture as a model?

Section 2 • Shoguns and Samurai

- Describe the roles of shoguns.
- What happened when the shogun's power weakened?

Section 3 • Life in Medieval Japan

- Which religions shaped much of Japan's culture?
- How did the shogun period affect different groups of Japanese people?

Critical Thinking

- Analyze** Why do you think the early Japanese people were so independent?
- Contrast** How were the Yayoi more advanced than the Jomon?

Review

Reading Skill

Cause and Effect

Identifying Cause and Effect

- Read the paragraph below. Create a graphic organizer that shows the cause and effects described in the passage.

The sea surrounding Japan's islands made it easy for people in ships to travel along the coast and from island to island. It encouraged people to become merchants, traveling from village to village with goods to trade.

The vast ocean around Japan's islands, however, kept the Japanese people isolated, or separate, from the rest of Asia. As a result, Japan developed its own fiercely independent society with its own religion, art, literature, and government.

To review this skill, see pages 482–483.

Geography Skills

Study the map below and answer the following questions.

- Place** Which of the four major Japanese islands has been home to the country's major cities?
- Human/Environment Interaction** How do you think Japan's geography and location have helped it become a center of production and trade?
- Location** Identify present-day countries, states, or provinces that are made up largely of islands. How are they similar to and different from the Japanese islands?



Read to Write

- Creative Writing** Review this chapter and conduct research to gather information about the Mongols' attack on the Kamakura shogunate. Work with a group to write a script for a short play about the events before, during, and after the invasion. Use historical figures as well as fictional characters. Create a mask for each character, similar to the style of early Japanese masks. Present your play to the class.
- Using Your FOLDABLES™** Write a poem, series of journal entries, or short story using the main ideas and supporting details from your completed foldable.

Using Technology

- Designing a City** When Emperor Kammu built Heian, he modeled it on Changan. If you were to design a city, what current cities and towns would inspire you? Use the Internet and your local library to research different features and layouts of cities. Combine the components you like best into a plan for a new city. Use a computer to make a scale drawing of your city. Then list the borrowed components and the current cities from which you borrowed them.

Linking Past and Present

- Analyzing Art** Medieval Japanese art, architecture, and literature reflected the Japanese love of beauty and simplicity. What values are reflected in present-day art?

Primary Source Analyze

Seami, a great actor in Noh plays, explained how acting is mastered.

"As long as an actor is trying to imitate his teacher, he is still without mastery. . . . An actor may be said to be a master when, by means of his artistic powers, he quickly perfects the skills he has won through study and practice, and thus becomes one with the art itself."

—Seami Jūokubushū Hyōshaku,
"The Book of the Way of the
Highest Flower (*Shikadō-Sho*)"

DBQ Document-Based Questions

- What is the first step in learning acting?
- How does an actor "become one with the art itself"?