

**Constructive Response Questions**  
Describe feudalism in Japan and specifically how the samurai were a part of it?



# Ancient China & Japan

## Outcome: Early Japan

### 1. Setting the Stage:

- Japan lies just \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_
- Japan got its name from Chinese word “\_\_\_\_\_” which means “land of the \_\_\_\_\_”
- Japan has \_\_\_\_\_ ideas, institutions, and culture \_\_\_\_\_ for thousands of years
- Japanese culture is \_\_\_\_\_ as China’s but is still very rich and unique

### 2. Geography of Japan

- Japan is made up of \_\_\_\_\_ islands which makes it an archipelago; \_\_\_\_\_ miles long
- Historically, the Japanese have lived on the \_\_\_\_\_ largest islands:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



- Southern Japan has a \_\_\_\_\_ with plenty of \_\_\_\_\_
- Japan is very \_\_\_\_\_; roughly only \_\_\_\_\_% of the land is suitable for farming
- \_\_\_\_\_ are in short supply (coal, oil, iron ore)
- Tropical storms called \_\_\_\_\_ can occur during late summer and early fall
- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ waves are also dangerous threats to the islands



### 3. Early Japan

- Japanese culture is very old, however first \_\_\_\_\_ only date back to \_\_\_\_\_ Century B.C.
- During 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C., Japan was \_\_\_\_\_ as a nation; hundreds of \_\_\_\_\_ controlled their own territories
- \_\_\_\_\_ clan established itself as the leading clan by 400 A.D.
- Yamato chiefs called themselves \_\_\_\_\_; gradually accepted into Japanese culture
- When one clan was defeated, the winning clan \_\_\_\_\_ of the emperor
- Each clan worshipped its own \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- Beliefs combined to form Japan’s earliest religion: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Shinto meant “\_\_\_\_\_”
  - Shinto was based on \_\_\_\_\_ for forces of \_\_\_\_\_ and worship of \_\_\_\_\_
  - Worshippers believed in “\_\_\_\_\_” or divine spirits that dwelled in nature

## 4. Japanese Culture

### a. Buddhism



- i. \_\_\_\_\_ brought Buddhism; was officially accepted by Japanese imperial court in mid-\_\_\_\_\_s.
- ii. Buddhism spread but Japanese \_\_\_\_\_ Shinto
- iii. Some Buddhist rituals became Shinto rituals and some Shinto gods and goddesses were worshiped in \_\_\_\_\_.

### b. Borrowing from China



- i. Interest in Buddhist ideas grew into \_\_\_\_\_ all things \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_ (a Buddhist convert) sent first of three missions to China
- iii. Goal was to study \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. The Japanese adopted the following Chinese ideas:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
  4. \_\_\_\_\_
  5. \_\_\_\_\_
  6. \_\_\_\_\_
  7. \_\_\_\_\_ (failed in Japan)



### c. The Heian Period



- i. In the late 700s, the imperial court moved from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
- ii. Many of Japan's \_\_\_\_\_ moved to Heian as well
- iii. Became known as the \_\_\_\_\_ (794-1185)
- iv. Rules dictated every aspect of court life (color of \_\_\_\_\_, length of \_\_\_\_\_, etc)
- v. \_\_\_\_\_ was extremely important; \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ was frowned upon
- vi. Everyone at court was expected to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_
- vii. The best written accounts of Heian life come from diaries, essays, and novels written by the \_\_\_\_\_
- viii. Lady Murasaki's *The Tale of Genji* is considered the world's \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Japanese Feudalism

- a. Heian period would be challenged by great \_\_\_\_\_ and clan \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Landowners acted as more independent rulers and set up \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Small landowners \_\_\_\_\_ parts of their \_\_\_\_\_ to strong warlords for \_\_\_\_\_ which began the feudal system in Japan
- d. \_\_\_\_\_: period of Japanese history where the country was dominated by powerful regional families (\_\_\_\_\_) and ruled militarily by the \_\_\_\_\_
- e. The emperor was the \_\_\_\_\_ at the top of Japanese society
- f. Often the shogun, or “\_\_\_\_\_” had powers of a military dictator; real power of Japan
- g. Landowners (daimyo) surrounded themselves with loyal bodyguards called \_\_\_\_\_
- h. Samurai lived by a demanding behavior code called \_\_\_\_\_: “\_\_\_\_\_”
- i. Samurai were expected to show \_\_\_\_\_ and die an honorable death



- j. If dishonored, Samurai could earn honor back by \_\_\_\_\_; ritualistic \_\_\_\_\_
- k. By the 1200s, the shoguns headquartered in Kamakura ruled through \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ which lasted until 1868 in Japan

**Result:** Due to \_\_\_\_\_, Japanese history can only be traced back a little over 2,000 years. Japan's culture \_\_\_\_\_ from the Chinese and soon made their culture their own.

### **Constructive Response Question**

**Describe feudalism in Japan and specifically how the samurai were a part of it?**

### **Additional Question**

**Compare and contrast Ancient Chinese culture with the culture that developed in early Japan.**

