**Review Sheet Japan Test**

Japan’s Physical geography:

* Japan is an **archipelago** (group of islands) 4 major, 3000 or so total
* Formed by volcanoes, on the Ring of Fire (tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanoes, hot springs), very mountainous
* About the size of California
* **Mt. Fuji** – on island of Honshu-symbol of Japan; last erupted 1707-1708
* How has physical geography impacted Japan? -sometimes isolating as an island nation, but has had a lot of interaction with Korea and China; -mountainous terrain limits farmland-use terrace farming, rely on sea for food; -people live in coastal villages, often travel by sea to trade

Jomon Period: (10,000 BC-300 BC)

* Nomadic groups; settled along coast
* Made pottery with knotted cords

Yayoi (300 BC-552 AD)

* Introduced farming; grew rice in paddies, Used potter’s wheel, Bronze bells for rituals
* Organized into **clans** (family groups related by blood and marriage)

Age of Reform-Yamato Period (552-710)

* Current **Emperor Akihito** claims descent from Jimmu, “emperor of Heaven”
* **Prince Shotoku** – encouraged study of China; wrote Constitution; government officials appointed; created a bureaucracy; encouraged Buddhism and ordered construction of temples/monasteries

Nara Period (710-794)

* Capital city Nara – modeled after Chinese city
* Emperor appoints government officials (no exam like China)
* Spread of Buddhism – originated in India, spread to Japan through China and Korea

Heian Period (794-1185)

* Capital at Heian (later called Kyoto)
* Series of young/ill emperors led to rule by regents from the Fujiwara Clan; emperors lose political power-study Buddhism and write poetry
* **Muraski Shikibu-Tale of Genji –** story of adventures of a Japanese prince, first novel, written by a woman
* Zen Buddhism introduced
* Clan families gain power; nobles rule lands and use samurai warriors to enforce laws and fight wars
* **Gempei War** – 1180-1185- war between two most powerful clans, the Taira and the Minamoto families; Minamoto wins-emperor gives **Minamoto Yoritomo** title of **shogun** (commander of the military) ;emperor was concerned that the Minamoto would try to take over as head of Japan
* Emperor stays in Heian; shogun rules from Kamakura

Kamakura Period (1185-1333) \*\*\*Start of Feudal Period\*\*\*

* Mongols attack in 1274 and again 1281; turned back by typhoons (that the Japanese called kamikaze “divine winds”)
* Rebellions by emperor and samurai (who felt they were not receiving enough land for their services) was successful in overthrowing the Kamakura, though the emperor did not regain power

Muromachi Period (1338-1573)/ Momoyama Period (1573-1603)

* Ashikaga shoguns who took over after Kamakura were weak; **daimyo** – warlords – ruled small territories in Japan; pledge loyalty to shogun and emperor but ruled their own lands
* **Samurai** became vassals of daimyo (they pledge loyalty to daimyo in return promising to serve in times of war (this is called **feudalism**.)
* 1542 **Portuguese** introduce firearms and Christianity to Japan
* End of 16th century, warlords competing for control over country; First of Three Great Unifiers captures Kyoto and defeats Muromachi
* Toyotomi Hideyoshi reunifies Japan
* Castles constructed as a result of firearms used in war
* Attempts to invade China by going up the Korean Peninsula failed
* **Battle of Sekigahara** in 1600 between daimyo; won by **Tokugawa Ieyasu** who soon united the daimyo to a united Japan

Edo Period (1603-1868) AKA Tokugawa Shogunate \*\*\*End of Feudal Period\*\*\*

* Ieyasu appointed shogun, establishes Tokugawa government in Edo (Tokyo)
* Persecution of Christianity
* 1639-almost complete isolation of Japan from rest of world = **closed door policy**. The Dutch are allowed to trade from small island in Nagasaki harbor. Why? Foreign influence, in particular Christian missionaries, were believed to be threatening to power of shogun and stability of Japan
* Relatively peaceful time, arts flourish, samurai class fill gov’t positions and practice in the arts, keep status but lose wealth; merchant class rises; education important-literacy rate rises; woodblock prints popular, theater
* 1854-**Commodore Matthew Perry** forces Japanese gov’t to open limited number of ports for trade (US has important whaling industry, wants ports to refuel ships, offer refuge to ships in distress)

Social Pyramid during Feudal Period:

* Emperor (religious power, appoints shogun)
* Shogun (commander of military-military and political power)
* Daimyo (warlords, serve shogun)
* Samurai (soldiers who follow code of Bushido, paid in rice and land, should be uninterested in wealth)
* Ronin (masterless samurai – fight for hire)
* Peasants (farmers, fishermen-produce food, 90% population)
* Artisans (produce crafts, goods)
* Merchants (make money off of work of others, goes against Confucian beliefs so lowest on social pyramid, their position starts to rise during Edo Period)

Culture:

* Shinto religion – “the way of the spirits” – spirits called **kami** – belief that all natural things have spirits; honor those spirits by praying at **shrines** (gates to shrines called **torii**) \*dealt with daily life
* Buddhism arrived in Japan from China through Korea; eventually sects (smaller religious groups) are created; Zen Buddhism – can find inner peace through mediation, martial arts, finding inner peace, living simply \*dealt with life to come
* Most Japanese practice both Shinto and Buddhism
* Origami – art of folding paper
* Tanka – oldest form of poetry, five lines, unrhymed
* Lacquer – shiny red and black coating on wooden crafts
* Calligraphy- art of beautiful writing