

## 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 Ring of Fire (tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanoes, hot springs), very **mountainous**
- 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

### 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

### Heian Period (794-1185)

- **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 and so he keeps him loyal

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

- **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 (first Europeans in Japan)** introduce firearms and Christianity to Japan
- End of 16<sup>th</sup> century, warlords competing for control over country;
- **Toyotomi Hideyoshi** reunifies Japan; tries to conquer China by invading Korea; soldiers on this campaign collect ears and noses to show proof of their attacks
- 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

- 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=**coal**, offer refuge to ships in distress)
- **John Manjiro**, a Japanese man who studied in Massachusetts, acts as a translator for shogun during negotiations with Americans (was shipwrecked, rescued by American whaling ship, risks execution and returns to Japan)

#### 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; created in Japan
- Buddhism arrived in Japan from China through Korea; eventually **sects** (smaller religious groups) are created; Zen Buddhism – can find inner peace through meditation, 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
- **Calligraphy**- art of beautiful writing