

# Japan Notes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## Geography of Japan

- Japan is an \_\_\_\_\_
- The 4 main islands are Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu
- Capital city – \_\_\_\_\_
- Japan lies along the “\_\_\_\_\_” – an area of volcanic activity along the borders of the Pacific Ocean
  - Tallest mountain – Mt. Fuji – is an active \_\_\_\_\_
  - Earthquakes are also very common, which can also lead to \_\_\_\_\_ (a tidal wave)
  - One recent natural disaster occurred in 2011 when Japan was hit by a massive earthquake and tsunami

## Ancient Japan

- **Early Japan**
  - From 10000 to 300 BCE, hunter-gatherers and skilled fisherman lived along the east coast
  - Lived in \_\_\_\_\_ (family group)
  - Practiced religion called \_\_\_\_\_
    - Means “Way of the gods”
    - Teaches that supernatural beings (called \_\_\_\_\_) lived in all objects and forces of nature
  - Around 250 CE, Yamato clan emerged as the most powerful clan and established a government
- **Outside Influences**
  - Learned many ideas and practices from the neighboring countries including
    - \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ tools and weapons
    - Growing \_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_ (enlightenment can be achieved suddenly rather than other many years of study)
    - Chinese writing system
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Age (794-1185 CE) considered Japan’s golden age
- **Feudal Japan**
  - Developed in the late 1100s (similar to Medieval period in Europe)
  - Country divided into large \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_ – warriors that provided Lords with protection from bandits and outlaws
- **Kamakura Shogunate**
  - 1100s – Japan torn by 30 year war between rival clans
  - Minamoto clan won. Their leader, Kamakura, est. a warrior government called \_\_\_\_\_ and took the role of \_\_\_\_\_ (emperor’s chief general that held most of the country’s power)
- **Look Out! Here come the Mongols!!**
  - 1274 and 1281 – Kublai Khan tried to invade and conquer Japan
  - On the 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt, Mongols were overpowered by a \_\_\_\_\_
  - This typhoon was referred to as \_\_\_\_\_ (“divine wind”)

- **Tokugawa Shogunate**

- In 1543, the first \_\_\_\_\_ arrived in Japan; in 1549 came the first Catholic missionaries, converting 300,000 Japanese
- By the 1630s, Japanese Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu decided to close Japan to outsiders:
  - Ordered all \_\_\_\_\_ to leave the country
  - Decreed that any Japanese that left would be returned and killed
  - Banned European \_\_\_\_\_
- The isolation lasted more than 200 years

## **Establishing Modern Japan**

- **The Meiji Restoration**

- 1853 – U.S. Commodore Perry opened Japan by force with naval power
- 1867 – a group of \_\_\_\_\_ overthrew the Tokugawa Shogunate and restored the emperor as the head of government
- \_\_\_\_\_ Restoration (1868-1911)
  - Named for Emperor Meiji
  - Built modern \_\_\_\_\_
  - Developed the \_\_\_\_\_

- **Japan in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

- In the 1930s, Japan's government was taken over by the military and they began a quest to take over much of the Far East (\_\_\_\_\_)
- Invaded \_\_\_\_\_ in 1937
- Developed a close relationship with Nazi Germany
- U.S. placed trade \_\_\_\_\_ on Japan

- **World War II**

- On December 7, 1941 Japan attacked the United States navy base at \_\_\_\_\_, Hawaii
- By 1942, Japan had conquered much of East Asia and the South Pacific, but defeats in late 1942/early 1943 turned the tide of the war
- In August 1945, the U.S. dropped 2 atomic bombs on the cities of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, which convinced the Japanese to surrender, ending WWII

- **Post-WWII Economy and Government**

- Following the war, Japan was in ruins
- U.S. helped by giving Japan a series of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- By the 1950s, the economy was back to its pre-war state
- After the war, the U.S. occupied Japan until 1952 and helped Japan set up a new \_\_\_\_\_ and write a new \_\_\_\_\_

## Japan Today

- **Japan's Government Today**

- Today, Japan has a \_\_\_\_\_ monarchy with a \_\_\_\_\_ government and a separate judiciary
- Parliament called the \_\_\_\_\_ and the House of Representatives holds most of the power
- The constitution states that the emperor is \_\_\_\_\_ and has limited \_\_\_\_\_ (many still believe him to be divine)

- **Japan's Economy Today**

- Today, Japan has one of the most powerful economies in the world
- Japan's economy is based on \_\_\_\_\_
- Import \_\_\_\_\_
- Major exports include ships, cars, steel, plastics, machinery, cameras, and electronics

- **Culture of Japan**

- Culture is a blend of traditional Japanese elements with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ influences
- Religions – Buddhism, Shintoism

- **Japan's Challenges**

- \_\_\_\_\_, especially in cities (90% live in cities)
- More economic competition from \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Korea
- Pollution
- Territorial disputes with \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ threats from North Korea