

Unit 6--Test Prep

Japan

Chapters 20-22



1. What most affected Japan's contact with other peoples? What difficulty has Japan faced due to its geography? How much of Japan's land is suitable for habitation? How does Japan's location and geography affect the Japanese diet?
2. Before the 400s, what was Japanese society centered around?
3. What were the Taika Reforms? How did they strengthen the central government? Who in Japan would have been most upset by the Taika Reforms?
4. Which religion, native to Japan, expressed great love and respect for nature and ancestors, and taught about a natural world filled with divine spirits? What were those spirits called? A shrine built to blend into its natural surroundings would be associated with what religion?
5. What is the spread of cultural elements from one society to another? What would be some examples of this spread of cultural elements? Which country influenced Japanese government starting in the 600s?
6. How was Japan's capital, Nara, similar to China's capital? How was it different and what might that tell you about Japan at that time?
7. What religion came to Japan from China by way of Korea? Where did it originate? How did Japanese sculptures of Buddha differ from Chinese sculptures of him? What were Japan's Buddhist shrines called? What does "Buddha" mean?
8. What religion held that life is an endless cycle of pain caused by man's greed? Which religion held that reaching Enlightenment should be the goal of all and that there is an 8-fold path to Enlightenment which consists of different aspects of correct living including proper behavior, proper meditation, and proper insight into truth?
9. Whose written language did the Japanese adapt to form their own? When Japanese first began using "Chinese writing" to write Japanese words, it enabled them to keep records, record legends, and develop their own literature. What is the name for that Chinese writing? What was it that they invented late which used simplified Chinese characters to stand for syllables of Japanese words?
10. Japan's earliest literary works were modeled after China's. What were they? When Japan imported music from China, what else did they get?
11. Although the Japanese understood bronze working, what did sculptors in Japan prefer to work in?
12. Who was Prince Shotoku? What kind of society was Japan during his time? Was Japan unified at that time? What was Prince Shotoku's attitude toward China?
13. What was the Seventeen Article Constitution? Who created it? During the 9th century, who held all the high positions in government?
14. What period in Japan's history is referred to as the Golden Age? Which group was most responsible for the achievements of Japan's Golden Age? What was highly valued in Heian society?
15. Why did Japan's emperor move the capitol from Nara to Kyoto? What did Heian society prize most? What was the social system in the Heian court based on? What were individuals judged most by in Heian society?
16. Who were the Fujiwara? What did the Fujiwara family accomplish by marrying into the royal family and advising the emperor?
17. What was characteristic of Heian festivals?

18. Who were Japan's leading writers during the Heian period? What Heian masterpiece is often called the world's first novel?
19. What is the uniquely Japanese form of theater in which a chorus sings a heroic story while performers dance and act it out?
20. What caused the end of the Heian period? What happened after the Heian period ended?
21. What was Japan's warrior class called? What does it mean? Who did these people serve? What weapon did they value most?
22. What was the samurai code? What did the samurai code emphasize?
23. Who was the supreme military leader during the age of the samurai? Who pledge to serve and protect him? What did they receive in return? Who were the warrior lords of 14th century Japanese warrior society? Who did they serve?
24. Both Western Europe in the Middle Ages and Japan during the samurai era were feudal societies. How did Japan at this time differ from Western Europe during the medieval period?
25. What did a samurai's mental training consist of? In what cultural pursuits were samurai trained? What was the new form of poetry that was invented by a famous samurai poet? What purpose did the tea ceremony serve?
26. What religion was most popular with the warrior class in Japan? What is characteristic of Zen Buddhism? What made Zen Buddhism well suited to samurai?
27. Zen gardens were built to aid in what?
28. What was the ritual form of suicide that was a part of the samurai culture?
29. If you were a woman, why might it be better to live in 12th-century Japan than 17th-century Japan?