Medieval Japan Unit

Today: Feudal Japan

Emperor Kammu
During Heian Period
(5min) Current Events
(5min) Image Interpretation

• With a partner,

• Use your knowledge of Chinese influence on Japanese culture and look for evidence of Chinese influences in the image below. (There are at least 4!)

The Illustrated Sutra of Cause and Effect. Nara period/8th century (Jobon Rendai-ji Temple)
The Illustrated Sutra of Cause and Effect. Nara period/8th century (Jobon Rendai-ji Temple)

What do you notice?
4 things in the image

- Artwork itself: Daoist in nature
- Architecture depicted
- Traditional Chinese Clothing
- Buddhism: This image shows a “sick man” and a rich person on a horse. The interpretation is of Prince Siddhartha seeing a sick man on his travels.

*Notice how the image depicts Siddhartha as East Asian.*
Where did we leave off last class?

- The Fujiwara Clan (Family) are acting as rulers.
- Much of the emperor’s power is given to the ruling family.
Heian Period: 794-1156

• Growth in landed estates
• China was the cultural capital of Asia at the time.
• But Japanese society drifts away from these models!

Japanese Pagoda!
High fashion of Heian Court Life

Status, tradition, and knowing one’s place were valued traits of Heian nobility.

Noble Woman

Noble Men - Attire
Literature of the nobles

- Noble women kept diaries and wrote books!
  - The Pillow Book by Sei Shonagon
  - The Tale of Genji over 1000+ pages
- These writings contribute to the Japanese script known as **kana**
- Men wrote in **Kanji** (Chinese script)
- Japanese society shifts from Chinese models of religion, arts, and government.
Japanese Written Language:

- There are three kana scripts:
  - modern cursive **hiragana** (ひらがな),
  - modern angular **katakana** (カタカナ)
  - the old syllabic use of kanji known as **man'yōgana** that was ancestral to both.
Civil War

- The Imperial court loses respect and power.
- This allows regional families to gain more power!
Video Question:

• Partner Discussion,
• Discuss the following question with your partner then write down your answer.

• Explain why you think the emperor did not try and take control of the government when there was a civil war after the fall of the Fujiwara clan.
(10min) Textbook Worksheet

• You have 10 minutes to complete your textbook questions!
Japanese Hierarchy

Political, economic, and social system based on loyalty, the holding of land, and military service.
Japanese Feudalism: - Class Relationships

- Emperor
- Shogun
- Daimyo
- Daimyo
- Samurai
- Samurai
- Samurai
- Peasant
- Peasant
- Peasant
- Peasant

Loyalty
Land - Shoen
Protection
Food
Japanese Feudalism:
- Peasant Labour over rice

Rice is, and was, Japan’s most important food! Even Samurai salaries were translated into measures of rice, or *koku*
European Feudalism: - Class Relationships

- Pope and/or God
- King
  - Lord
    - Lord
      - Lord
        - Lord
          - Lord
            - Lord
              - Land - Fief
                - Land - Fief
                  - Protection
                    - Food
                      - Peasant
                        - Peasant
                          - Peasant
                            - Peasant
Even the noble warriors were similar!

Knight’s Armor vs. Samurai Armor
Draw cartoons that represent the following levels of medieval Japanese society!
(10min)

- Shogun!
- Daimyo!
- Peasants!
Taboo: Review Game

Each card has 1 key term.

Whoever has the card must give clues to the rest of the group to guess!

*CATCH* Whoever is giving the clues cannot say the word, part of the word, or any of the taboo words listed on the card.
The Rules.

- The teacher will place you in a group of 4.

- Send one volunteer (tribute) to the front of the class.

- When you get back to your group you will have exactly 1 minute to provide clues to your group.
(If this is too much time, clue-providing time will drop to 30sec!)

- Whoever guesses the right answer collects the card and becomes tribute for the next round.

- If no one guesses it, someone else from your group becomes tribute.

- After the review game is over, hand the cards back to the teacher!
Conclusion:

• Today’s most important points:
  - Japanese culture starts forming during the Heian Period
  - Family clans fight to rule the country! (Emperor becomes figure head)
  - Japanese feudal society is based on a series of social agreements (i.e. protection for food)

• Next Class:
  - Quiz
  - Samurai and the warrior society