

Name:

Date:

Feudal Japan

Instructions: Read the article and use the Annotating Text Codes to demonstrate your thinking. Then choose eight significant events to add to the Timeline graphic organizer.

Annotating Text Codes

Circle important keywords/terms.

Underline definition or supporting context clue.

? Annotate questions and confusion.

Identify new important information or big ideas. **!!**

Draw arrows to show → related ideas.

Identify key examples used that help make connections. **Ex**

😊 Identify favorite or interesting part.

Identify important main idea. **m**



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Japan is an island nation in East Asia.

For most of the period between 1192 and 1867, the government of Japan was dominated by hereditary military dictators called **shoguns**. The word *shogun* means “general.” The government of a shogun is called a **shogunate**.

As the shoguns acquired increased control over national affairs, they became the actual rulers of Japan. The emperors lived mostly in seclusion and had only formal powers.

There were three shogunates. The first was founded by Minamoto Yoritomo in 1192 and lasted until 1333 and was based in Kamakura. It was known as the Kamakura shogunate. The second, called the Ashikaga shogunate, founded by Ashikaga Takauji, was based in Kyoto and lasted from 1338 until 1573. The third was founded by Tokugawa Ieyasu. Its headquarters were at Edo (modern Tokyo), and it was in power from 1603 until 1867. It is known as either the Tokugawa or Edo shogunate.



Minamoto Yoritomo, founder of the Kamakura shogunate, shifted political power in Japan from the imperial court toward the samurai class, fundamentally changing the trajectory of Japan's history and culture.

Kamakura Shogunate (1192–1333)

The Kamakura shogunate, founded in 1192, took over all the administrative, military, and judicial functions of government. Minamoto Yoritomo was a shogun who appointed **shugo**, or regional warlords, as heads of provinces. Their duties were to maintain peace, supervise the guard service, and command local retainers in battle. Yoritomo also appointed stewards to supervise the individual estates into which the provinces were divided. They collected taxes, enforced laws, and maintained order.

The Kamakura shogunate successfully repelled Mongol invasions in 1274 and in 1281. The defeat of the Mongol invasions was of crucial importance in Japanese history. The victory gave a great impetus to a feeling of national pride, and the *kamikaze* ("divine wind") that destroyed the invading hosts gave the Japanese the belief that they were a divinely protected people. However, the financial strain imposed by the defense efforts against the Mongol attacks exacerbated internal weaknesses in the regime. The Kamakura shogunate was overthrown by a domestic revolt in 1333, and Ashikaga Takauji established a new regime.

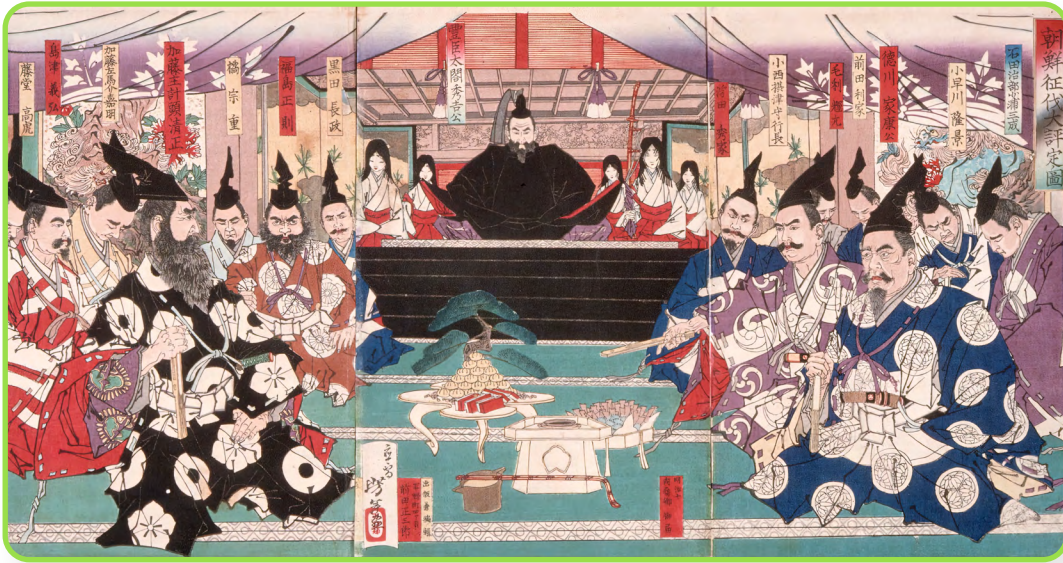
Ashikaga Shogunate (1338–1573)

In 1338 Takauji assumed the title of shogun. During this period, warrior leaders fought each other for land and vassals, who are citizens that serve a lord and are in turn protected by that lord. Shugos grew increasingly independent. They became known as **daimyo**. The

emperor and shogun lost political power. Daimyo owned land and divided the country into feudal domains. The daimyo's vassals served both as warriors and as government officials. Daimyo taxed the peasantry, who made up the bulk of the population. They eventually undermined the power of the Ashikaga shogunate.

During this period, Japan was developing trade contacts with the outside world. Official trade missions to China began in 1404. Japanese traders were active along the coasts of Korea and China, especially during the 16th century. Japanese adventurers and pirates also operated in East Asian waters, some reaching Siam (now Thailand) and the Philippines.

Portuguese traders were the first Europeans to arrive in Japan in 1543, followed by Spanish, English, and Dutch traders. In the hope of attracting European trade, some daimyo encouraged conversions to Christianity. The Christian missionary movement grew in Japan for the next three decades.



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“The Great Conference on the Conquest of Korea” (19th century), by Tsukioka Yoshitoshi, depicts Hideyoshi and his generals preparing for one of his unsuccessful campaigns to conquer Korea.

Hideyoshi Regime (1573–1598)

In the 1560s, Oda Nobunaga, a daimyo, overthrew the Ashikaga shogunate. Nobunaga set policies to unify Japan.

After his death, one of Nobunaga’s most powerful commanders, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, came into power.

Although he never became shogun, Hideyoshi took control of the whole country in an effort to complete Nobunaga’s work of unifying the country after more than two centuries of feudal warfare.

In 1592–1593 and in 1597–1598, Hideyoshi led invasions of Korea as part of an unsuccessful plan to conquer China. Upon withdrawing from Korea, Hideyoshi’s armies carried out a scorched-earth policy, which is the widespread destruction of the enemy’s property and resources.

Tokugawa (Edo) Shogunate (1603–1867)

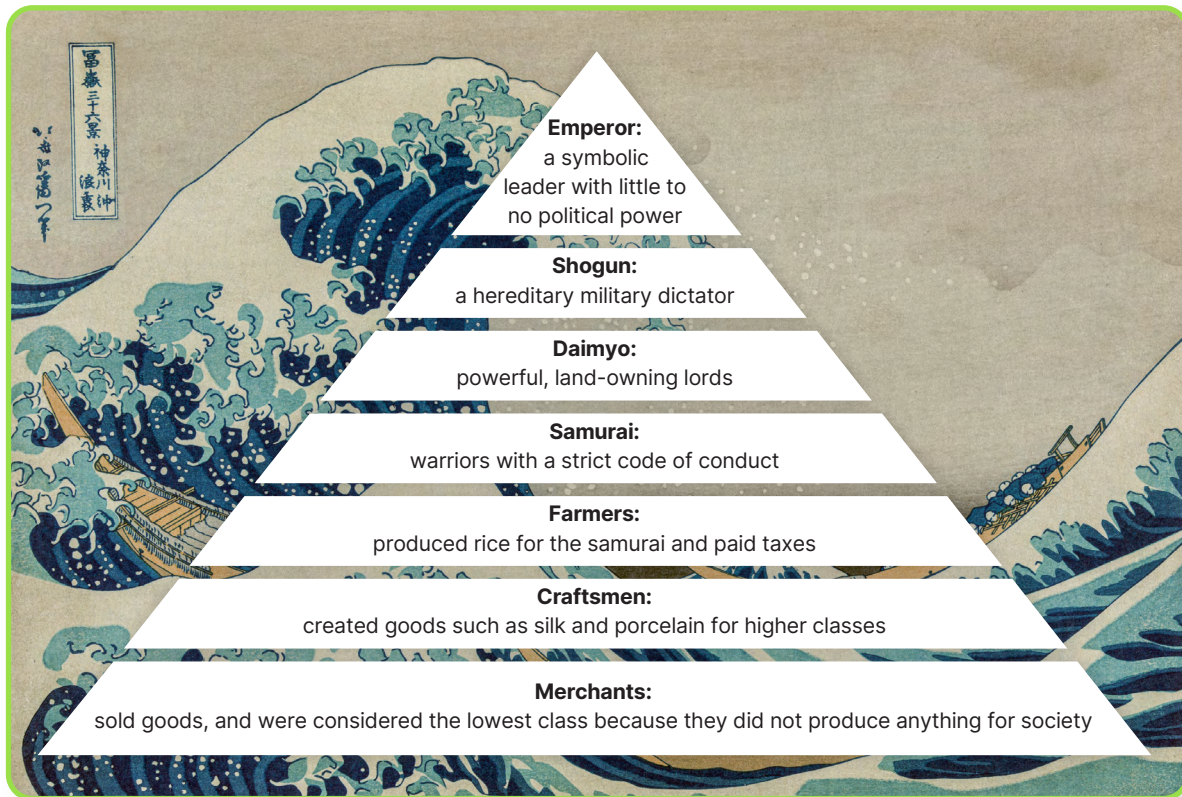
The death of Hideyoshi in 1598 led to a power struggle. Each daimyo tried to carve out an independent domain for himself. In 1600, Tokugawa Ieyasu, a daimyo, defeated all opposition at the Battle of Sekigahara. After the battle, he organized the daimyo into a federation under a new shogunate at the city of Edo, which is now Tokyo. Ieyasu was named shogun in 1603 by the emperor. The political consolidation of Japan continued under Ieyasu’s rule.

For the next two centuries, Japan enjoyed extraordinary peace and stability. Ieyasu and his successors built an elaborate system of controls over the daimyo, including limits on their military strength. To help preserve order, the hereditary distinctions dividing the four social classes were strictly maintained.



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Statue of Tokugawa Ieyasu at the Tōshō Shrine in Nikkō, Japan.



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Social Class Hierarchy Tokugawa (Edo) Shogunate

This class system reflected the social values placed on the different parts of society by the Shogunate. People were born into their class, which shaped their privileges, duties, and rules of conduct.

Fearing that Japan was being prepared for foreign conquest, the government expelled the Christian missionaries. It also prohibited the Christian religion and persecuted many Japanese converts to Christianity. By 1638 Christianity was exterminated in Japan. The Tokugawa leaders cut back foreign trade. By 1641 only Dutch and Chinese merchants were permitted to trade in Japan—limited to one ship a year at the single port of Nagasaki. Japanese people were forbidden to leave the country. The country entered a period of seclusion that lasted for more than 200 years.

As a result of internal peace, a national market developed, and the economy flourished. New rice lands were cultivated, and advances were made in farming techniques. Osaka and Edo became great commercial centers. By the 18th century, Edo, with a population of more than 500,000, was larger than any city in Europe. A new urban culture, reflecting the tastes of merchants, shopkeepers, and artisans, emerged in both Osaka and Edo. The cultural standards of the peasantry rose as well, and by the middle of the 19th century almost half of the entire male population of Japan could read and write.

During their last 30 years in power, the Tokugawa shogunate fended off peasant revolts and uprisings among the samurai, or warrior class. By the 1860s a general demand for the return to power of the emperor had emerged. The last shogun, Tokugawa Yoshinobu, was forced to resign and yield administration of civil and military affairs to the emperor in what has been called the Meiji Restoration.

Date:

Timeline

