Early Japan & Feudalism Notes

Geography:

* Located to the East of mainland Asia in the **Pacific**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Ocean
* **Islands**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (surrounded by water on all \_**4**\_\_\_ sides)
* Water: good for **trade, irrigation, travel, fish** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **Mountains**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: isolated, protection, bad for farming
* Natural disasters common (**earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis** \_\_\_\_\_)

Religion: **Shinto**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* *belief that all things living & nonliving have a spirit*
* respect for **nature**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural diffusion: *Korea & China*

* 2 causes of cultural diffusion = **war**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & **trade**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Took Chinese **writing**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & adapted it to make it their own
* Borrowed 2 big religions from China
  + **Zen Buddhism**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (valued peace, nature)
  + **Confucianism**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (valued family, honor parents)

Ruler:

* **emperor**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (descendants of sun goddess)
* 1603: Tokugawa Shogunate brought **peace & unity**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for 300 years!
  + Created centralized, **feudal**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ government
  + New technology: improved farming, population **grew**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, trade increased
  + Prevented trade with foreign countries which was good for Japan’s **domestic**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ economy
* Arts –poetry: **haiku**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

COMPARE

|  |
| --- |
| * *Same: rigid class system; land owning class = in charge; knights are like samurai* * *Differences: women’s importance increased in Europe (chivalry); Catholic Church had more influence in Europe than Zen Buddhism did in Japan* |

COMPARE & CONTRAST

**Shoguns** ------------------------🡪

(top military leaders, more political power than emperor)

**Daimyo** ---------------------🡪

(vassal lords, got land in exchange for military support)

**Samurai** ------------------------🡪

(literally: “those who serve” – code = “bushimo” – if

Broke code of honor – must commit suicide)

**Peasants/Artisans** -----------------🡪

(farmers/made weapons; protected by samurai)

**Merchants** -------------------🡪

(rich, lowest social class – moved up later)

*\*\*\*****Women*** *could be warriors/run estates, but became less important later.*