**Study Guide for Chapter 20**

The Influence of Neighboring

Cultures on Japan

**Terms** Locate as many of the following terms as you can in your Reading

or Activity Notes and highlight them. For each term not already in your

notes, define and explain its significance on a separate sheet of paper.

cultural diffusion (p. 219)

Prince Shotoku (p. 220)

Seventeen Article Constitution (p. 221)

Taika Reforms (p. 221)

Shinto (p. 222)

kanji (p. 224)

kana (p. 224)

tanka (p. 224)

pagoda (p. 226)

gagaku (p. 226)

**Essential Questions** Consult your Reading Notes and, when necessary,*History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond.* For each question below,record notes that prepare you to answer it.

1. Where are China and Korea located in relationship to Japan? Why didthis location allow for Japan to be influenced by many cultures at once?(7.5.1)

2. When did Prince Shotoku come to power? Which cultures did he admire? How did he rule Japan? What was life like for people during his reign? (See also Online Resources, Primary Source 5.)(7.5.2)

3. Which Chinese ideas about government did Japanese rulers adopt? During the ninth century, what happened in Japan that made their government different from China’s? (7.5.1)

4. In what ways was Nara similar to the Chinese capital city? In what way was it different? (7.5.1)

5. How did Buddhism spread through Korea into Japan? Explain how Buddhism and Shinto blended together. (7.3.1, 7.5.4)

6. Describe how the Japanese adopted aspects of Chinese language, poetry, and sculpture. (7.5.1)

**Timeline** Label and illustrate a timeline with the events listed below. For

each event, draw a creative and appropriate symbol near its proper place on

the timeline. Write the date the event occurred and an appropriate headline

for each event.

Rise of Prince Shotoku to power

Seventeen Article Constitution

Invention of *kana* for written Japanese

**Study Guide for Chapter 21**

Heian-Kyo: The Heart

of Japan’s Golden Age

**Terms** Locate as many of the following terms as you can in your Readingor

Activity Notes and highlight them. For each term not already in your notes,

define and explain its significance on a separate sheet of paper.

Heian period (p. 229)

corruption (p. 230)

Heian-kyo (p. 230)

Fujiwara family (p. 231)

courtier (p. 233)

yamato-e (p. 235)

Noh theater (p. 239)

**Essential Questions** Consult your Reading Notes and, when necessary,*History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond.* For each question below,record notes that prepare you to answer it.

1. Why is the Heian period called Japan’s Golden Age? (7.5.5)

2. Describe life within Heian-kyo. How was the city designed? How did people live? (7.5)

3. How did the Fujiwara family exercise their power? (7.5)

4. What determined social rank during the Heian period? What was affected by a person’s social rank? 7.5)

5. What value did Heian society place on beauty and fashion? How didmen and women groom themselves? (7.5)

6. What forms of entertainment, sculpture, painting, writing, and literature were prevalent during the Heian period? (7.5.5)

7. Who was Murasaki Shikibu? Why is significant about her novel, *The Tale of Genji*? (See also Online Resources, Biography 5.)(7.5.5)

8. What factors contributed to the end of the Heian period? In what ways can Heian influences be seen in modern Japan? (7.5.5)

**Timeline** Label and illustrate a timeline with the events listed below. For

each event, draw a creative and appropriate symbol near its proper place on

the timeline. Write the date the event occurred and an appropriate headline

for each event.

Heian-kyo becomes Japanese capital

Leadership of Fujiwara Michinaga

Civil war in Japan

Takeover of Japan by military family

**Study Guide for Chapter 22**

The Rise of the Warrior Class

in Japan

**Terms** Locate as many of the following terms as you can in your Reading

or Activity Notes and highlight them. For each term not already in your

notes, define and explain its significance on a separate sheet of paper.

samurai (p. 241) Amida Buddhism (p. 247)

code of conduct (p. 241) Zen Buddhism (p. 247)

shogun (p. 242) code of Bushido (p. 248)

daimyo (p. 242) seppuku (p. 248)

martial arts (p. 244) kamikazes (p. 250)

haiku (p. 246)

**Essential Questions** Consult your Reading Notes and, when necessary,*History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond.* For each question below,record notes that prepare you to answer it.

1. How was military rule established in Japan during the 12th century?(7.5.6)

2. Explain the role of shoguns, daimyos, and samurai in the military government of Japan. (7.5.3, 7.5.6)

3. What did the samurai warriors wear in battle, and what weapons did they use? How were samurai warriors physically and mentally prepared for battle? (7.5.3, 7.5.6)

4. What aspects of Japanese culture were evident in samurai training?Explain. (7.5.3, 7.5.6)

5. How did Amida Buddhism and Zen Buddhism develop? What influence did Buddhism have on the samurai warriors? (7.5.4)

6. How was the code of conduct related to samurai values and traditions? How do these samurai values and traditions influence modern Japanese society? (7.5.3, 7.5.6)

7. In what ways did the position of samurai women decline over time? (7.5.3, 7.5.6)

8. In what ways was medieval Japan similar to medieval Europe? In what ways was it different? Compare, for example, Japanese haiku poetry with medieval English epic poetry. (See Online Resources, Literature 6.)(7.5.3, 7.5.6)

**Timeline** Label and illustrate a timeline with the events listed below. For

each event, draw a creative and appropriate symbol near its proper place on

the timeline. Write the date the event occurred and an appropriate headline

for each event.

Rise of Yoritomo to power as first shogun

New capital established in Edo (present-day Tokyo)

Final form of samurai code, Bushido

**KEY TO ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS**

Study Guide Answers for Chapter 20

The Influence of Neighboring Cultures on Japan

Terms

cultural diffusion: the spread of cultural elements from one society to another

Prince Shotoku: a prince who came into power in Japan in 539 C.E.; borrowed ideas from other

cultures

Seventeen Article Constitution: a set of guidelines issued by Prince Shotoku that stated the

emperor was the country’s supreme ruler

Taika Reforms: a set of reforms that strengthened the central government; took control of land

away from clan leaders and gave it to the emperor

Shinto: a religion which expresses love and respect for nature; Japan’s original religion

kanji: Chinese characters for Japanese words

kana: simplified Chinese characters for Japanese syllables

tanka: a form of poetry with five lines of 5, 7, 5, 7, and 7 syllables

pagoda: a tower-shaped structure with several stories and roofs

gagaku: a form of Chinese court music

Essential Questions

1. China and Korea are relatively close to Japan, across the sea to the east. Japan’s location

allowed for many cultural ideas to travel to Japan by way of the Korean Peninsula. Some of

these ideas originally came from China and India.

2. Prince Shotoku came to power in 593 C.E. and admired Chinese and Korean cultures. Prince

Shotoku ruled Japan as the country’s supreme ruler. He issued the Seventeen Article

Constitution, which concerned the ruling of the country and moral behavior. Shotoku stressed

the importance of harmony with the people

3. Japanese rulers adopted the Chinese ideas of creating set ranks for government officials,

strengthening the central government, and choosing officials based on ability. During the

ninth century, a powerful aristocracy developed in Japan and members of the noble families

held all the high positions in government.

4. Nara had many similarities to China’s capital Chang’an. The streets were laid out in an

orderly checkerboard pattern, with a wide boulevard in the center and many Buddhist

temples and monasteries clustered near the palace. Nara was smaller in size and population,

however, and did not have a wall surrounding the city.

5. Buddhism originally started in India. It arrived in China and Korea through trade routes and

finally came to Japan when a Korean king sent the Japanese emperor a statue of the Buddha

as a recommendation for the religion. Buddhism and Shinto blended together through the

sharing of practices. For example, both Shintoists and Buddhists built shrines, Shintoists to

kami and Buddhists for bodhisattvas.

6. The Japanese adopted the Chinese writing system and invented kanji and kana to use Chinese

characters to write their own language. They developed a form of poetry called *tanka* that

was based on Chinese poetry forms. The Japanese also adopted Chinese sculptural styles of

gestures and clothing patterns.

Timeline

Rise of Prince Shotoku to power 593 C.E.

Seventeen Article Constitution 604 C.E.

Invention of *kana* for written Japanese 900 C.E.

Study Guide Answers for Chapter 21

Heian-kyo: The Heart of Japan’s Golden Age

Terms

Heian period: Japan’s Golden Age, from 794 to 1185 C.E.

corruption: dishonest or illegal practices, especially involving money

Heian-kyo: the capital city of Japan during the Heian period

Fujiwara family: the noble family who controlled Japan for nearly 300 years

courtier: a member of a ruler’s court

yamato-e: a Japanese painting style with thin lines and bright colors

Noh theater: a classic form of Japanese drama involving heroic themes, a chorus, and dance

Essential Questions

1. The Heian period is called Japan’s Golden Age because during this time aristocrats led a

great flourishing of Japanese culture.

2. Heian-kyo was a very well-designed city. It was laid out in a checkerboard pattern with

crisscrossing streets and a grand wall around it. The center of the city had palaces and

government offices. The people lived very formal lives, and manners were extremely

important.

3. The Fujiwara family exercised their power by marrying into the emperor’s family and acting

as advisers to the emperor.

4. Social rank during the Heian period was determined by what family a person came from.

Social rank affected the color of clothing, the height of gateposts in front of houses, and the

harshness of criminal sentences.

5. Heian society prized beauty, elegance, and fashion. Men and women groomed themselves

with great care. Small, pointed beards were considered attractive for men, and for women

long hair was an important beauty feature.

6. During the Heian period, the following forms of entertainment, sculpture, painting, and

writing and literature were prevalent:

• Entertainment: leisure sporting events such as kemari and rango; festivals and celebrations;

dancing; bugaku performances

• Sculpture: wood sculpture with joined pieces

• Painting: thin lines with bright colors with a focus on nonreligious scenes of landscapes,

natural beauty, seasonal tasks, and literary scenes

• Writing and literature: poetry became a part of daily life; calligraphy skills were valued;

women were leading writers; *The Tale of Genji* and *Pillow Book* were masterpieces

7. Murasaki Shikibu was the best known Heian writer. Her novel, *The Tale of Genji,* was the

world’s first novel and has served as a model for the modern romance novel.

8. The Heian period declined due to the practice of giving large tax-free land grants to nobles,

which weakened the emperor’s power. Bandits gained strength in the countryside, and

government was too weak to supply law enforcement. Landowners supplied their own

protection and grew strong enough to challenge the imperial government. Heian influences

can be seen today in Japan’s literature and drama. *The Tale of Genji, Pillow Book,* tanka

poetry, and Noh theater (which grew out of bugaku) remain important aspects of Japanese

culture.

Heian-kyo: The Heart of Japan’s Golden Age

Timeline

Heian-kyo becomes Japanese capital 794 C.E.

Leadership of Fujiwara Michinaga 995–1028 C.E.

Civil war in Japan 1180–1185 C.E.

Takeover of Japan by military family 1185 C.E.

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Study Guide Answers for Chapter 22

The Rise of the Warrior Class in Japan

Terms

samurai: a powerful warrior class in Japan

code of conduct: rules of behavior

shogun: the head of the military government of Japan in the era of the samurai

daimyo: a local lord in Japan in the era of the samurai

martial arts: styles of fighting or self-defense, such as modern day judo or karate, that mostly

began in Asia

haiku: a Japanese form of short poetry with three lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables

Amida Buddhism: a form of Buddhism that teaches that all people can reach paradise by relying

on the mercy of Amida Buddha

Zen Buddhism: a form of Buddhism that emphasizes effort and discipline

code of Bushido: a code of conduct that governed samurai life; called for honesty, fairness, and

fearlessness in the face of death

seppuku: ritual suicide

kamikazes: World War II Japanese suicide pilots; “divine winds”

Essential Questions

1. Military rule was established in Japan during the 12th century when Minamoto Yoritomo

took power in 1185. In 1192, Yoritomo took the title of shogun, or commander in chief.

More samurais became part of the ruling class.

2. The military government in Japan was ranked according to shoguns, daimyos, and samurais.

• Shogun: commander in chief

• Daimyos: warrior-lords; loyal to the shogun and supported by samurais

• Samurai: professional warriors

3. Samurai warriors wore heavy armor with a helmet, iron mask, shoulder and shin guards, and

metal sleeves. As weapons, samurai used swords, bows and arrows, and spears. Samurai

warriors were physically prepared for battle by training under masters. They learned fencing,

horseback riding, and martial arts. They prepared mentally by learning how to endure pain

and suffering and developing a “sixth sense” about danger.

4. Japanese culture was evident in samurai training in the study of writing and literature, tea

ceremony, and Buddhism. Samurai practiced calligraphy and wrote poetry. They studied the

tea ceremony, which fostered a spirit of harmony, reverence, and calm, and practiced

Buddhism, which taught discipline and focus.

5. Amida Buddhism was developed by Amida, an Indian prince. According to Amida

Buddhism, Amida became a Buddha and set up a western paradise called the Pure Land.

Samurai were drawn to Zen Buddhism because of its emphasis on effort and discipline.

6. The Bushido code of conduct governed the samurai’s life. The code called for samurai to be

honest, fair, and fearless in the face of death. Samurai values and traditions influence modern

Japanese society. Japanese soldiers in World War II were observing this code of conduct

when they killed themselves rather than surrender, and martial arts are still studied

throughout Japan and the rest of the world.

7. As the warrior culture developed, the position of samurai women declined. Samurai men

became unquestioned lords of their households and women lost authority. They were

expected to obey first their fathers, then their husbands, and then their sons. Women did not

choose their own husbands and were sometimes even expected to kill themselves when their

husbands died.

8. Medieval Japan and medieval Europe had both differences and commonalities. Both cultures

were based on ties of loyalty and obligation between lords and vassals. Both had rulers who

rose to power as military chiefs. In Europe, however, the ruler was the king, whereas in Japan

the shogun ruled in the name of the emperor. Also, the code of conduct was stricter in Japan,

where a samurai sometimes had to kill himself to maintain his honor.

Timeline

Rise of Yoritomo to power as first shogun 1192 C.E.

New capital established in Edo (present-day 1603 C.E

Tokyo) .

Final form of samurai code, Bushido 17th century C.E.