

A map of East Asia and Southeast Asia. Two large red arrows originate from the Korean Peninsula and the Chinese mainland, pointing towards Japan. The text 'The Influence of Neighboring Cultures on Japan' is overlaid on the map in a green serif font. A thin gold horizontal line is positioned above the text, and another thin gold horizontal line is positioned below the text.

The Influence of Neighboring Cultures on Japan

Chapter 20: pages 214-227

Objectives for this unit

- Work on note taking skills
 - Do your best and forget the rest
 - You must take notes
 - Focus on listening for understanding
 - Think, pair, and share with others after the lecture to determine emphasis and clarify
-

Let's Get Activated

- What did the surrounding seas provide Japan?
- Where did more people live in Japan? Why?



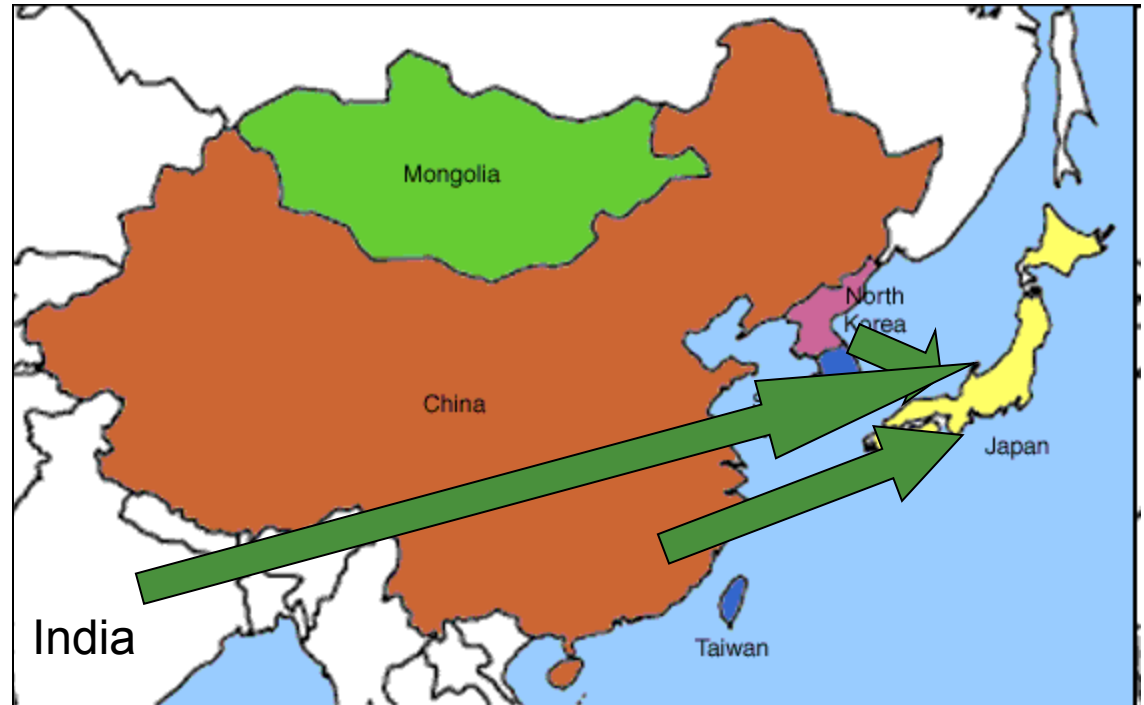
Steps to Meditation



- Sit and Stand (next to your desk) in a comfortable position
 - Make sure you have good posture.
 - Straighten your back.
 - Rest your hands in a comfortable position
 - Clear your mind of all excess thoughts, just think about your best memory (focus on one thought/goal).
 - Breath slowly and quietly
 - MOST IMPORTANTLY: Relax and Let Go
-

Who influenced Japan?

- China
- Korea
- India



What is culture?

- Culture is the way of life for a group of people.
- Elements of Culture: (objects, ideas, & customs)
 - Religion
 - Food
 - Music
 - Literature
 - Art
 - Government



How does culture spread?

- Cultural Diffusion
- The spread of cultural elements from one society to another.



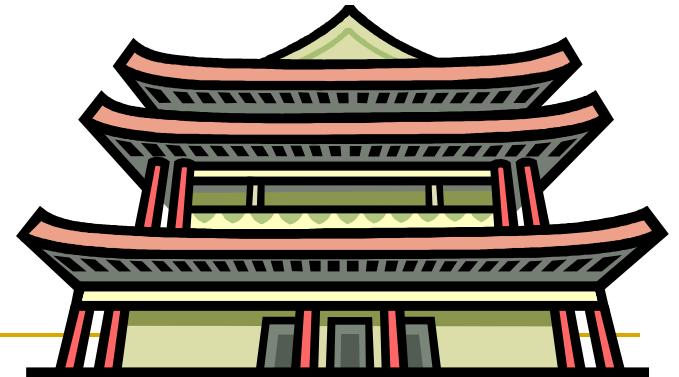
Overview

■ Japan was influenced in:

- ❑ Government
- ❑ City Design
- ❑ Religion
- ❑ Writing
- ❑ Literature
- ❑ Sculpture
- ❑ Architecture
- ❑ Music



法心武道



Prince Shotoku

- Leader of Japan in late 500' s
- Supported Cultural Diffusion
 - Allowed visitors from neighbors
 - Sent officials to China
 - Brought back paintings, religious statues, and musical instruments
- Result:
 - Japan' s culture became a mix (blend) of foreign and domestic (from home) ideas.



Influence on Government

- Chinese emperor sole ruler, Japanese relied on ujis
- Chinese used a bureaucracy, Japanese relied on ujis
- adopted meritocracy from China.
 - Used Confucian ranks
 - 17 Article Constitution
 - Emperor is supreme ruler
 - Taika Reforms
 - Emperor controls all lands
 - Uji lost control of clans
 - Difference:
 - Aristocracy used over merit!



Influence on City Design

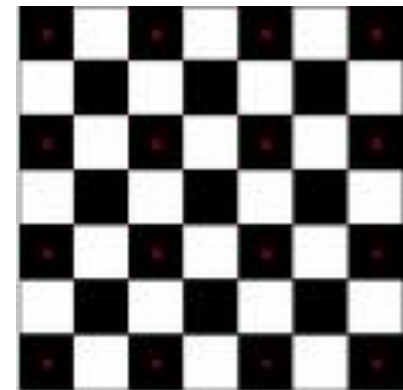
- Capital city of Nara

- Similar to Chang'an

- Checkerboard pattern
- Wide boulevards
- Imperial palaces surrounded by Buddhist temples

- Differences:

- Smaller
- No Wall



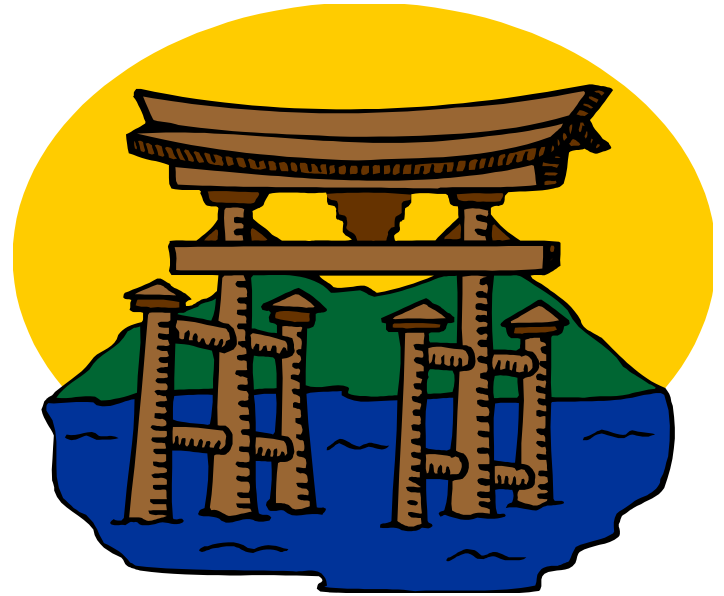
Pop Quiz

- In what way did Japan reject the Chinese style of government?
- A) Nobles remained in control.
- B) Scholars had to take an exam.
- C) The Emperor choose the best candidates.
- D) Foreigners were promoted.



Japan's Religion: Shinto

- Love & respect for nature
- Belief in spirits = *Kami*
 - Wind, lightning, rivers, etc.
- Purify unclean
 - Dirt, wounds, and disease
- Celebrate life & nature's beauty



Influence on Religion

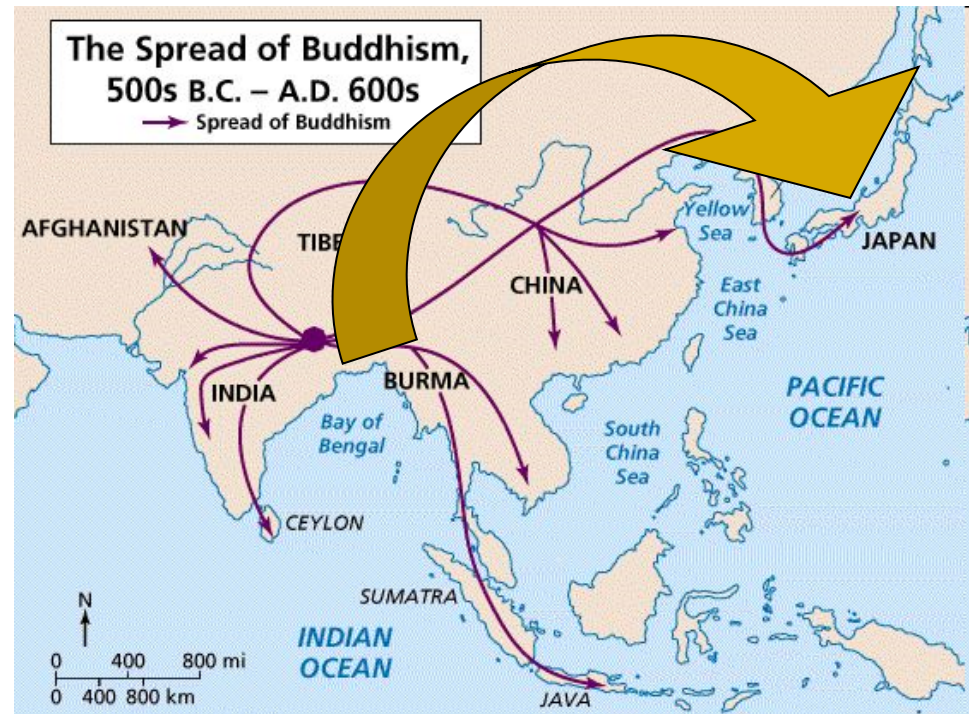
■ Buddhism

- ❑ Began in India in 500' s
- ❑ Siddhartha Gautama
 - “Buddha”
- ❑ Circle of rebirth
- ❑ Follow Eightfold Path
 - Meditation
- ❑ Seek Enlightenment
- ❑ Reach Nirvana
 - State of Peace with the Universe



Buddhism Spreads to Japan

- Mahayana Buddhism
 - All people can reach Nirvana
- Bodhisattvas
 - Reach Enlightenment
 - Help others reach Nirvana
- Blended with Shinto
 - Shinto = Joyful
 - Buddhism = Suffering



Pop Quiz

- How did Japan remain focused on nature?
- A) Bonsai trees were made the official plant.
- B) Shinto was combined with Buddhism.
- C) Mahayana called for Bodhisattvas.
- D) All shrines would have an “eco-friendly” domed roof.



Influence on Writing

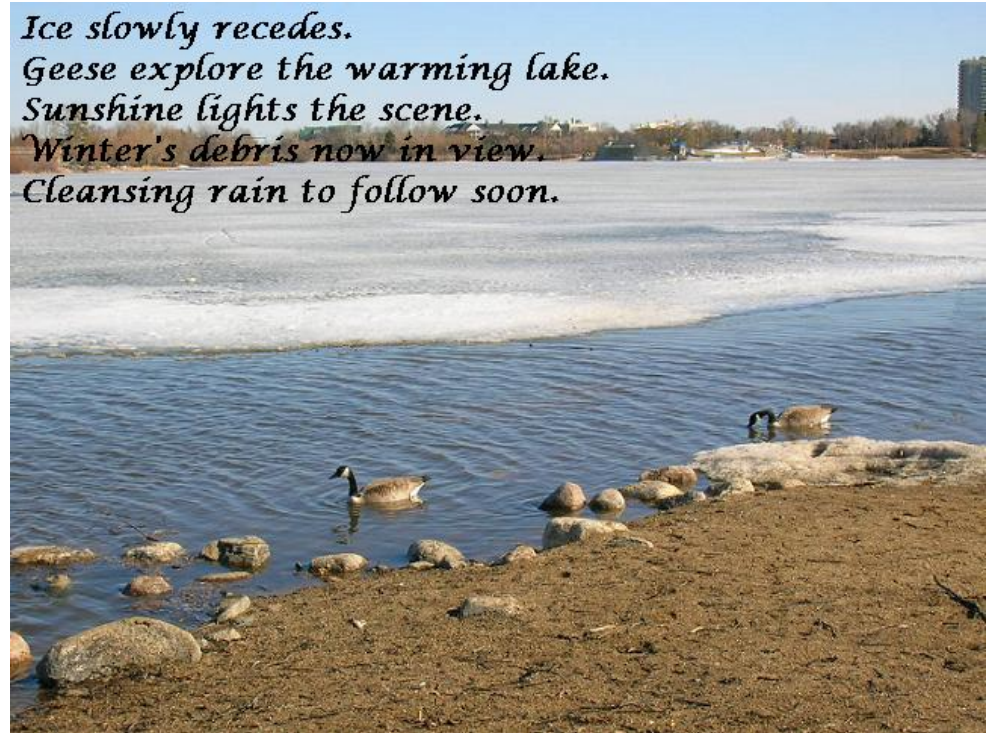
- Japanese has no written language
- Used Chinese Characters
 - Kanji: Symbolize Japanese words
 - Does not sound correct
- Kana: Symbolize Japanese syllables
- Spell out the correct sounds

愛



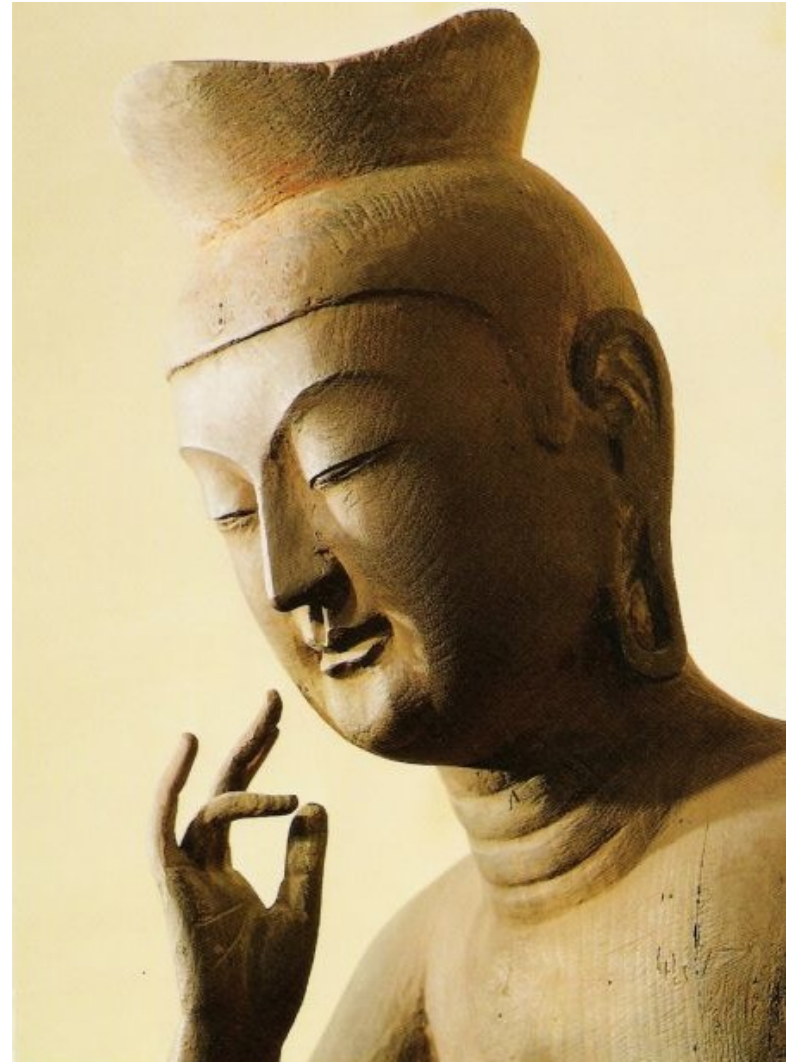
Influence on Literature

- Poetry called *Tanka*
- Modeled from Chinese
- Syllable Count
 - 5,7,5,7,7
 - About love & nature



Influence on Sculpture

- Inspired by Buddhism
- Borrowed ideas from Asia
 - China= Stone
 - Korea = Bronze
 - Smile, hand, waterfall pattern of folds in clothing
- Japanese used Wood



Pop Quiz

- Which Japanese word means “borrowed letters” referring to simplified Chinese characters that were used to represent Japanese syllables.
- A) Kami
- B) Kanji
- C) Kana
- D) Kamikaze



Influence on Architecture

- Temple designs

- India = Stupa

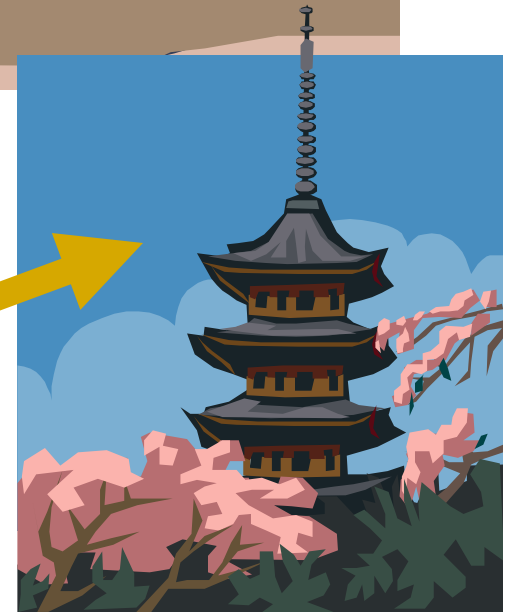
- Bell shaped roof



- China/Japan = Pagoda

- Curved roof, many stories
 - Tower-like

- Inspired Shinto priests to build

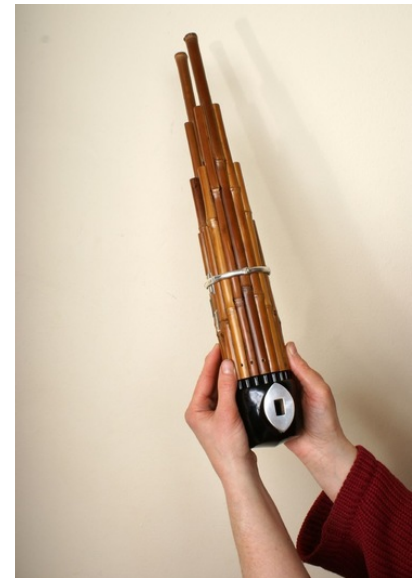


Influence on Music



- Early Japanese Music
 - Chanted poems, war & folk songs, prayers
 - Recited using only a few notes
 - String, flute & percussion instruments

- *Gagaku* comes from China!
 - New instruments like the Sheng
 - Called Sho by Japanese
 - Organ that imitated Phoenix call



Pop Quiz

- What is the purpose of a pagoda?
- A) Home
- B) Business
- C) Temple
- D) Government Office



Questions?



Some Key Vocabulary

- **Elements of Culture** – objects, ideas, and customs of a particular culture.
 - **Cultural Diffusion** – the spread of cultural elements from one society to another.
 - **Regent** – one who rules in the name of another.
 - **Uji** – chief of a clan.
 - **Imperial** – belonging or related to an emperor.
 - **Aristocracy**– ruling class of noble families.
 - **Shinto** – the original religion of Japan. It expresses the love and respect of the Japanese for nature and the culture.
 - **Meditation** – a spiritual discipline that involves deep relaxation and an emptying of distracting thoughts from the mind.
 - **Syllable** – a unit of sound in a word. For example, unit has syllables, “u” and “nit.”
-
- **Pagoda** – a tower shaped structure with several stories and roofs.

More Key Vocabulary

- **Prince Shotoku** – Regent under Empress Suiko, who came to power in 593 CE. Helped to create a centralized government. Borrowed ideas from China.
- **Sheng** (China)/**Sho** (Japan) – Wind Instrument.
- **Tanka** – A Japanese form of poetry. 31 syllables, divided into five lines of 5, 7, 5, 7, and 7 syllables.
- **Stupa** – Featured shrines
- **Kami** – Worship spirits in the Shinto religion. Represented by natural objects such as wind, lightning, rivers, mountains, waterfalls, large trees, and unusual stones.
- **Kanji** – Chinese Writing
- **Kana** – “Borrowed letters,” or simplifying Chinese characters to stand for syllables.
- **Mahayana Buddhism** – “Greater Vehicle.” A form of Buddhism with core beliefs that state that all people can enter nirvana (somewhat like heaven).
- **Nara** – Capital city of Japan starting in 710 CE. ~8 sq miles and had no more than 200,000 people