

Name: _____

Edo Japan Quiz Study Guide

1. Sakoku (Isolation) Policy

- Definition: Japan's official policy of forced isolation, preventing foreign influence.
- Implementation: Initiated in the early 17th century to control foreign trade and Christianity.
- Key Elements: No foreign ships allowed in, no Japanese allowed to travel abroad.
- Economic Impact: Limited trade to specific Dutch and Chinese traders in Nagasaki.
- Social Impact: Preserved traditional Japanese culture and prevented foreign ideologies.

2. Social Hierarchy in Edo Japan

- Overview: Strict class system
- Emperor: Spiritual leader with symbolic power.
- Shogun: Military dictator, actual ruler of Japan.
- Daimyo: Regional lords controlling lands under the shogun's oversight.
- Samurai: Warrior class upholding bushido (the way of the warrior), administrators.
- Peasants: Backbone of agricultural production, revered more than merchants due to producing food.
- Artisans and Merchants: Produced and sold goods; merchants, despite their wealth, were socially low because they did not produce goods but only traded them.

3. Geography's Influence on Japan

- Strategic Location: As an island nation, geography influenced Japan's defensive tactics and trade policies.
- Isolation Benefits: Protected from many external military threats and cultural invasions.
- Trade Limitations: Geographic isolation led to selective trading practices, influencing economic policies.

4. Cultural Developments During the Edo Period

- Performing Arts: Development of kabuki theater as a popular entertainment form.
- Literary Arts: Growth of a literate population and popularity of genres such as haiku and novel.

5. Comparisons of Isolation: Historical vs. Modern

- Technological Isolation: How modern technology can both connect and isolate individuals in society.
- Comparisons to the Renaissance period

6. Personal Experiences with Isolation

- **Social Dynamics:** Changes in relationships and community interactions during periods of isolation.

7. Economic Impacts and Considerations

- **Domestic Focus:** How sakoku led to an inward-looking economy focused on self-sufficiency.
- **Modern Economic Isolation:** Considerations of economic protectionism in Alberta today.
- **Long-term Economic Changes:** How prolonged isolation might affect economic development and innovation.

8. Governance and Political Dynamics

- **Power Structures:** Exploration of the actual powers of the shogun versus the ceremonial role of the emperor.