

Day 110 HW | Intro to Medieval Japan (Summarization)

In District 6, tributes will explore the civilization of Japan from about 500 to 1700 C.E. Japan is located off the coast of East Asia. The country consists of four large islands and about 3,900 smaller ones. On a map, these islands form the shape of a crescent.

Together, the Japanese islands make up an area about the size of Montana. Japan's four large islands are Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu. Of these, you can see that Honshu is the largest and most centrally located. To the west, the Sea of Japan (East Sea) separates Japan from Korea and China. To the east of Japan lies the Pacific Ocean.

In medieval times, being surrounded on all sides by water served Japan well, because no enemy could approach without being seen. In addition, the oceans were highways to other countries and provided an unending supply of food.

About three quarters of Japan is made up of mountains. This made farming difficult in ancient and medieval times. The highest mountain in Japan is Mount Fuji on the Pacific coast in central Honshu. Mount Fuji soars more than 12,000 feet and is always covered with snow. It looms above cities, lakes, and farms. On a clear day, Mount Fuji can even be seen from Tokyo, 60 miles away.

Volcanoes are common in Japan. Many of Japan's mountains are actually volcanoes, and occasionally one of them erupts. Mount Fuji is a volcanic mountain, but it has not had a major eruption since 1707.

Earthquakes are also quite common in Japan. They are usually minor, but at times severe destruction and loss of life have resulted from a major earthquake.

Japan is a land of beauty. Because of its mild temperatures and abundant rainfall, Japan has lush forests. Throughout the islands, rugged, tree-covered mountains meet cascading rivers and sparkling streams. In wintertime, snow-frosted trees surround crystalline lakes. Barren, rock-strewn shores rise above the blue waves of the sea. In medieval times, artists and poets found inspiration in the breathtaking scenery of their nation.

Japan's mild temperatures and heavy rainfall provide perfect conditions for growing crops such as rice and tea. Like the Chinese, Japanese people learned to cut into the mountains to make level areas, or terraces, on which to grow food. They also grew crops in the low valleys between the mountains. The soil was enriched by nutrients that washed down into the valleys from the highlands.

Japan's location off the coast of Asia has been a key to its history. At first, Japan developed in isolation because it was surrounded by water. Later, however, cultural ideas traveled to Japan from China and India by way of the Korean Peninsula. This peninsula lies about one hundred miles from the coast of Kyushu.



The island country of Japan lies just off the eastern coast of the Asian mainland. Japan's culture was enriched by borrowing from other places in Asia. In this chapter, you will explore how Japan's neighbors influenced Japanese culture from the 6th to the 9th centuries C.E.

Many ideas traveled to Japan by way of the Korean Peninsula. Some of these ideas originally came from China and India. For example, in the mid-500s, Buddhist priests from Korea visited Japan. In this way, the Japanese were introduced to Buddhism, which had begun in India about one thousand years earlier.

In 593, a female ruler, Empress Suiko, came to power in Japan. Her nephew Prince Shotoku admired Chinese and Korean culture, and he encouraged contact with these mainland countries. In 607, he sent an official representative to the Chinese court. Upper-class Japanese began traveling to China and Korea, where they learned about Chinese literature, art, philosophy, and government. Groups of Koreans also came to Japan, bringing with them their extensive knowledge of Chinese culture.

Over the next 300 years, Japan absorbed elements of culture—objects, ideas, and customs—from the Asian mainland. As you may remember, the spread of cultural elements is called *cultural diffusion*. In this chapter, you will learn how cultural diffusion helped to shape medieval Japanese culture. You will also discover how the Japanese blended ideas from other cultures into their own unique civilization.

Finding the Main Idea and Details

The **main idea** is the most important point about a topic.

Details are the facts and information that support the main idea.

Directions: Use the web below to list the main idea and the detail that support it. Double-click the graphic organizer and open the picture. Then, you can edit the bubbles. Make sure to click save when you are finished.

Passage Title: _____

Quick Summary Frame

The (article/letter/chapter) " _____ "

(title)

by _____ (discusses/focuses on) _____

(author)

(topic)

(Transition 1)

(Detail 1)

(Transition 2)

(Detail 2)

(Transition 3)

(Detail 3)

(Transition 4)

(Detail 4)

In conclusion, _____

(main idea)

Take



Quick Summary

Using the Graphic Organizer and the Quick Summary Frame we worked on in class, summarize the chapter into one, concise and well written paragraph.

To the left is a picture of what the summary frame looks like. You cannot type in it. You will type your summary beneath this page. Look back at the photos of the summary frame, transition words and phrases bank, or expectations for quality work to complete a phenomenal summary of the reading above.

Transition Words and Phrases Bank

Summary	Sequence
However	First
Due to the fact	In the beginning
Because of / Because of this	To begin with
In addition	It started when
Also	Next
Significantly	Then
Eventually	Soon
Unfortunately	Before/After that
To sum up	Finally
In conclusion	In the end

**** You may need to add/delete part of the transition phrase to make it work in your paragraph. You may also choose a better transition that is not on this list.****

EXPECTATIONS FOR WORK YOU HAND IN...



1. Do I have complete sentences?
(capital letters, punctuation, subject, verb)

2. Did I restate the question in my answer?
(Flip it!)

3. Do I make a clear claim supported by evidence and reasoning?

evidence = facts

reasoning = WHY the evidence supports the claim

Summary: (People who are typing can delete the lines)

[illegible]