



# THE FIRST SETTLERS

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# THE FIRST SETTLERS

- Main Idea (Objective) :



- Japan was settled by people who came from Northeast Asia who quickly organized themselves into clans and were ruled by great warriors.

# THE FIRST SETTLERS

- **Lecture Focus (Essential Question) :**



- Do you have many relatives? Do your relatives all come together to do things, maybe shop or plan big dinners or parties. Lets look at how the early Japanese people were organized into groups who were related to each other.

# THE FIRST SETTLERS

- Japan's earliest people probably came from Northeast Asia between 30,000 and 10,000 B.C.E.



- At that time, Japan was joined to the Asian continent by land due to the last Ice Age.

# THE FIRST SETTLERS

- These early people hunted animals and gathered wild plants.



- They used fire, stone tools and lived in pits that were dug into the ground.

# WHO WERE THE JOMON?

- In about 5,000 B.C.E., these wandering groups began to develop a distinctive culture and identity.



- They made clay pottery, using knotted cords to make designs on the clay's surface.

# WHO WERE THE JOMON?



- Today this culture is called the Jomon, which means “Cord Marks” in the Japanese language.



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# WHO WERE THE JOMON?

- Modern archeologists have found many pieces of Jomon pottery throughout Japan.



- Over time, the Jomon people settled in fishing villages along the coast of Japan...fishing became their entire way of life.

# WHO WERE THE JOMON?

- **Questions:**
- **1)** Where did Japan's earliest inhabitants come from?
- **2)** What event caused Japan to be joined to the Asian continent?
- **3)** The first culture of Japan was the Jomon people. What does Jomon mean?
- **4)** Where did the Jomon people settle and what became an important part of their life?

# WHO WERE THE JOMON?

- **Questions:**
- **1) Where did Japan's earliest inhabitants come from?**
  - **Northeast Asia**
- **2) What event caused Japan to be joined to the Asian continent?**
  - **The Ice Age caused sea waters to freeze and link Japan to Asia**
- **3) The first culture of Japan was the Jomon people. What does Jomon mean?**
  - **"Cord Marks"**
- **4) Where did the Jomon people settle and what became an important part of their life?**
  - **Fishing Villages / Fishing**

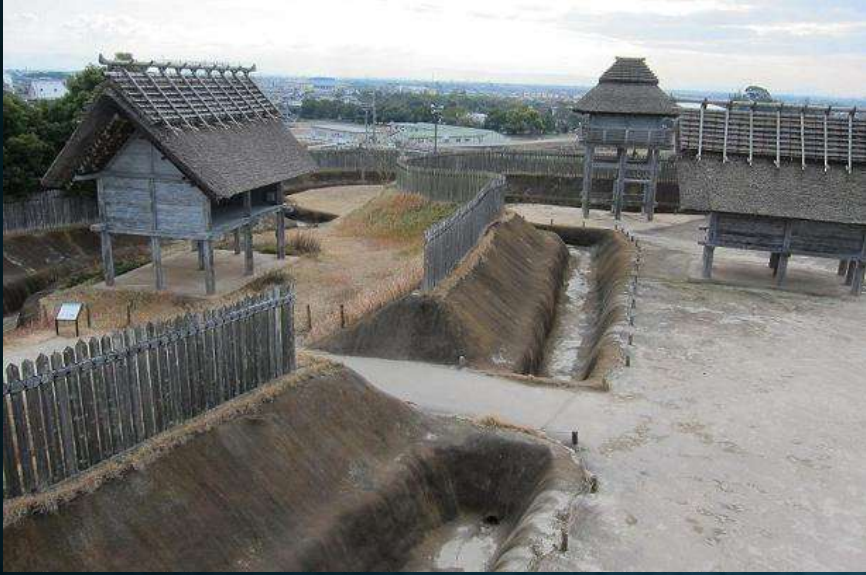
# WHY ARE THE YAYOI IMPORTANT?

- Jomon culture lasted until about 300 B.C.E.



- At that time, a new group of people appeared in Japan...Modern archaeologists have named this culture **Yayoi**.

# WHY ARE THE YAYOI IMPORTANT?



- The **Yayoi** got their name from the district in Tokyo, Japan where the first discoveries of their culture was found.

# WHY ARE THE YAYOI IMPORTANT?

- The Yayoi are the ancestors of today's modern Japanese people.



- They introduced farming to Japan and practiced a number of skills that they may have learned from individuals in China and Korea.

# WHY ARE THE YAYOI IMPORTANT?

- They made pottery on a potter's wheel and grew rice in paddies.



- A paddy is a rice field that is flooded when the rice is originally planted...the water is then drained at harvest season.



# WHY ARE THE YAYOI IMPORTANT?

- The Yayoi were also skilled in metal working.



- They created weapons such as axes, spears, knives, and farming tools from **Iron**...with long swords, short swords and bells from being produced from **Bronze**.

# WHY ARE THE YAYOI IMPORTANT?

- **Dotaku** are Japanese Bells from the Yayoi people, smelted from thin bronze and richly decorated...Dotaku were used for about 400 years as decorations for rituals)



- Dotaku rituals is a practice that is still commonly used in Japan today.

# WHY ARE THE YAYOI IMPORTANT?

- By 300 C.E., the Yayoi began organizing themselves into **clans**.



- **Clan** – a group of families related by blood or marriage.

# WHY ARE THE YAYOI IMPORTANT?

- Yayoi clans were headed by a small group of **Warriors**, or the strongest fighters.



- Under the warriors were the rest of the people...farmers, artisans and servants of the warriors.

# WHY ARE THE YAYOI IMPORTANT?



- The clan's warrior chiefs protected the people in return for a share of their farming harvest each year.

# WHY ARE THE YAYOI IMPORTANT?

- They Yayoi buried their warrior chiefs in large mounds known as **Kofun**.



- Made of dirt these tombs were carefully shaped and surrounded by ditches or moats.

# WHY ARE THE YAYOI IMPORTANT?

- **Kofun's** were filled with personal belongings, such as pottery, tools, weapons and armor.



- Many of the tombs were as big as Egypt's Pyramids.

# WHY ARE THE YAYOI IMPORTANT?

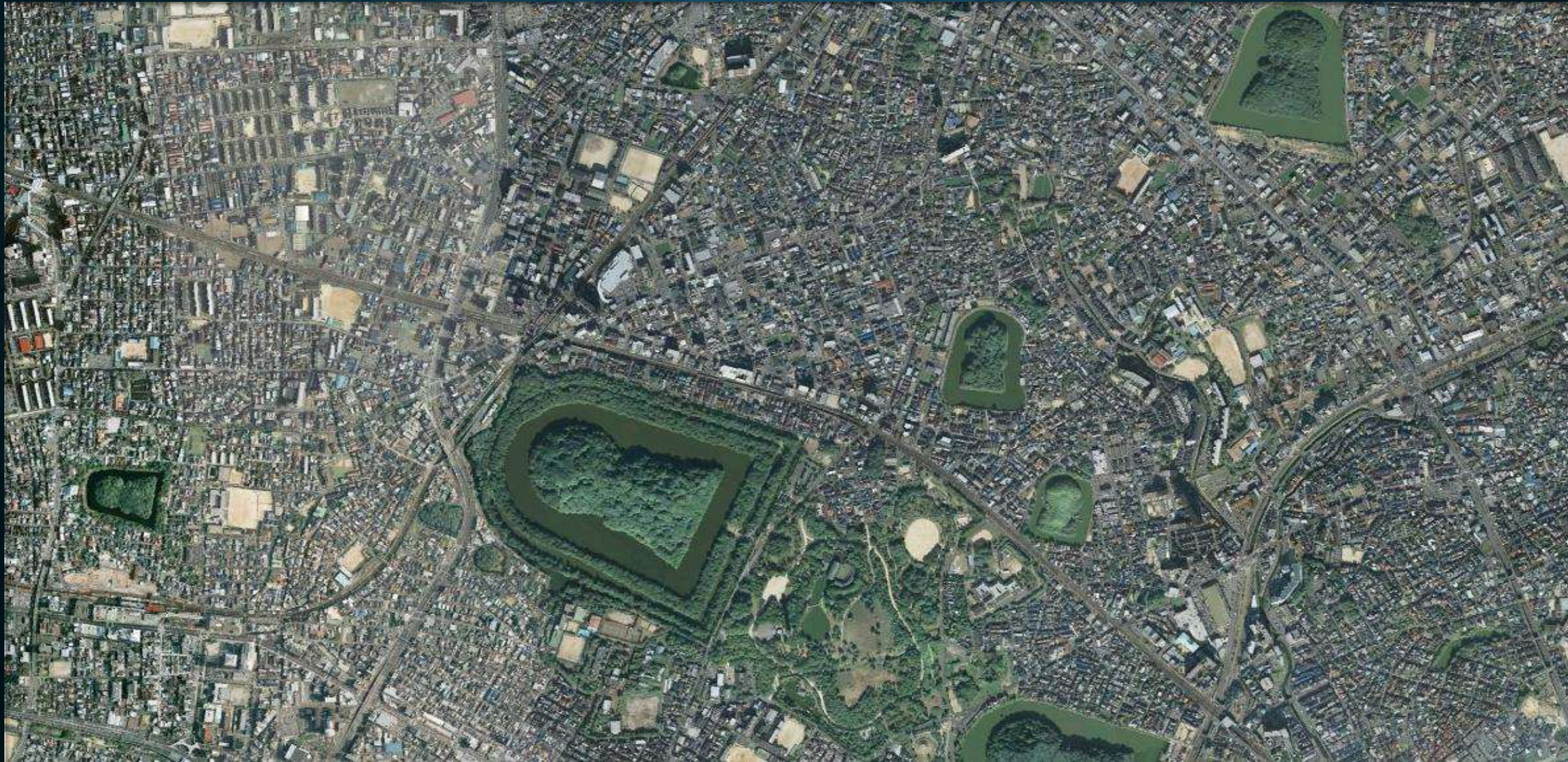
- The **Daisen Kofun** is the biggest tomb in Japan and is located in Sakai, Osaka seaport.



- This enormous Kofun is considered to be his final resting place of **Emperor Nintoku**, the 16th emperor of Japan



# WHY ARE THE YAYOI IMPORTANT?



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# WHY ARE THE YAYOI IMPORTANT?

- **Questions:**
- **1)** Where did modern archaeologists come up with the name for the Yayoi culture?
- **2)** How did a rice paddy work?
- **3)** How did the Yayoi organize themselves?
- **4)** Where did the Yayoi bury their warrior chiefs?

# WHY ARE THE YAYOI IMPORTANT?

- **Questions:**
- **1) Where did modern archaeologists come up with the name for the Yayoi culture?**
  - **They were named after the district in Tokyo where they were first discovered**
- **2) How did a rice paddies work?**
  - **The field is flood when rice is planted and drained during harvest**
- **3) How did the Yayoi organize themselves?**
  - **Clans**
- **4) Where did the Yayoi burry their warrior chiefs?**
  - **Large carefully shaped Kofun.**

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# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?

- Like many other people whose society began in ancient times, the Japanese have **Myths**.



- **Myth** – a legends or stories that tell the creation of the world or key events.

# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?



- What are some **Myths** that we have talked about in class or that you know from personal curiosity???



# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?

- The Creation Myth in Japan is the most important ancient story the country has...

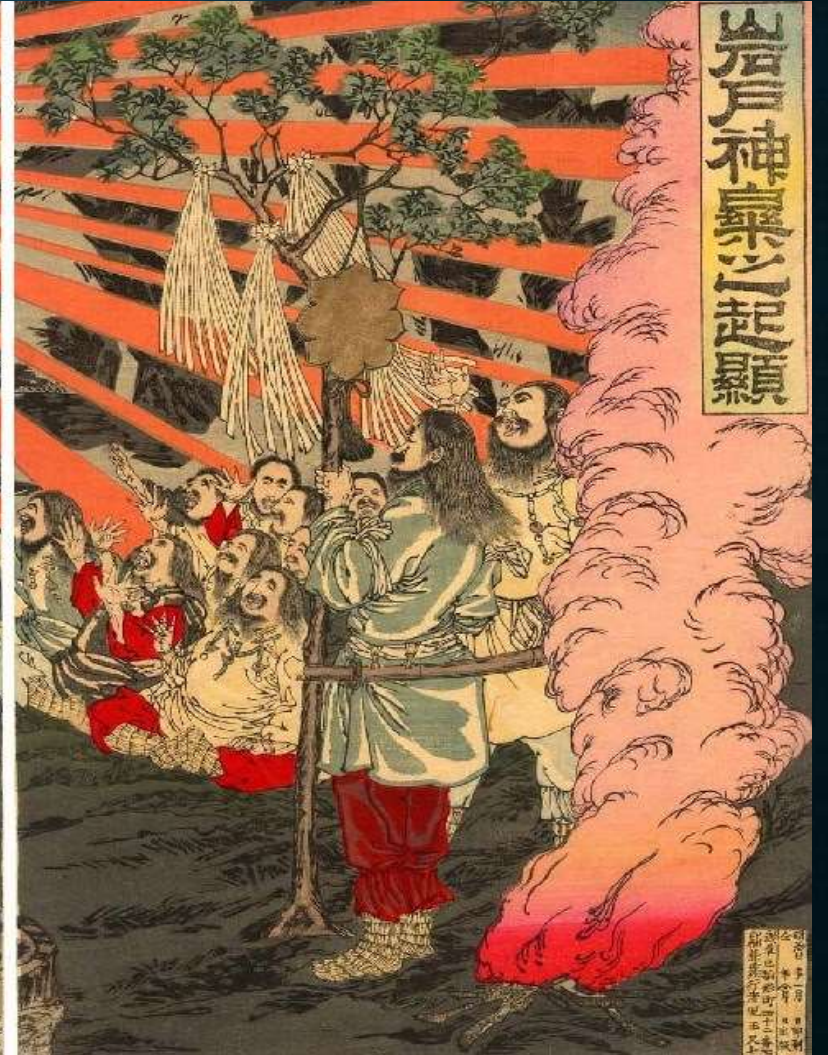
Essentially it states that centuries ago, two gods, **Izanagi** and **Izanami**, dipped a spear into the sea.

When they pulled the spear out of the sea, drops of salty mud fell onto the seas surface and formed the islands of Japan.



# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?

- The two gods then created the Sun Goddess **Amaterasu**, to rule over earth.



- They also created the storm god, **Susanoo**, as her companion.

# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?

- Susanoo was very bitter towards his sister, Amaterasu and was constantly trying to beat her in a sibling rivalry.



- Susanoo was sent to earth by Izanagi where his children became the first people of Japan.

# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?



- Amaterasu, however not entirely trusting Susano and sent her grandson **Ninigi no Mikoto** to rule over the Japanese people of earth and really to keep an eye on Susano.

# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?

- To make sure that everyone would accept his power, Amaterasu gave Ninigi her **Mirror** (Yata no Kagami), her **Jewel** (Yasakani no magatama) and a **Great Sword** (Kusanagi).
- These objects became the sacred symbols of leadership in Japan and signify that the emperor is the descendant of Amaterasu ... to this day they are still used by the Japanese Emperor.



# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?



- Due to the legendary status of these items, their locations are not confirmed, but it is commonly thought that the sword is located at **Atsuta Shrine** in Nagoya

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# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?



- The jewel maybe located at **Kokyo** (the Imperial Palace) in Tokyo



# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?



- The mirror is thought to be located in the **Grand Shrine of Ise**.

# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?

- Historians today are not sure of the actual events on which this myth is based.



- However, they do know that during the 500's C.E., a clan called the **Yamato** became strong enough to bring most of Japan under its rule.

# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?

- The other clans still held their territories, but they had to give their complete loyalty to the Yamato Chief.



- Yamato Chief's claimed that they were descendent from the Sun Goddess, Amaterasu and therefore, had the right to rule over Japan.

# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?

- Japanese legend states that a Yamato leader named **Jimmu** claimed descent from Amaterasu and took the title “**Emperor of Heaven**” in the year 660 B.C. E.
- He founded a line of rulers in Japan that has never been broken.
- It is commonly accepted that all of the emperors that have reigned over Japan for the past 1500 years have all been direct descends from the same imperial family and ultimately, **Amaterasu**.
- Were the Yamato able to defeat and control the other clans in Japan using these legendary weapons passed down from Amaterasu???



# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?

- In 1989, Emperor Akihito became Japan's 125th emperor.



- The Imperial House of Japan is the oldest continuing hereditary monarchy in the world...and the only monarchy to keep perfectly detailed lineage records of all Emperors, including the direct line to Amaterasu.

# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?

- **Questions:**
- 1) What is a **Myth**?
- 2) How was Japan created during the Shinto Creation Story?
- 3) What were the three gifts Amaterasu sent to Ninigi to rule Japan with?
- 4) What was the name of the first Japanese Emperor and what god did he claim to be a descendent of?

# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?

- **Questions:**
- **1) What is a Myth?**
  - **Stories that tell the creation of the world or key events.**
- **2) How was Japan created during the Shinto Creation Story?**
  - **Izanagi and Izanami, dipped a spear into the sea and when they pulled the spear out mud fell onto the water, creating Japan**
- **3) What were the three gifts Amaterasu sent to Ninigi to rule Japan with?**
  - **Mirror** (Yata no Kagami), her **Jewel** (Yasakani no magatama) and a **Great Sword** (Kusanagi).
- **4) What was the name of the first Japanese Emperor and what god did he claim to be a descendent of?**
  - **Emperor Jimmu and the Sun Goddess Amaterasu**

# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?

- **Lecture Check:**

- Answer the following question in a well written open ended response of 2-4 sentences.

- **What do historians know for sure about the rise of the Yamato Clan?**



# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?



- Time Travel Time: **The Sword of Ninigi**

# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?

- The Sword of Ninigi had a name...**Kusanagi**, which means “**Grass Mower**”.
- The questions is where did Amaterasu get the sword? Where did it gets its legendary name? What is the link between the past and the present?



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# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?

- This name came from an event in Japanese mythology, in which the sword saved a Japanese hero who had used its sharp blade to cut down grass that had been set ablaze around him.



- **Kusanagi**, in Japanese mythology is the miraculous sword that the sun goddess Amaterasu gave to her grandson Ninigi when he descended to earth to become ruler of Japan, thus establishing the divine link between the imperial house and the sun.

# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?

- The sword, along with the mirror and jeweled necklace, still forms one of the three Imperial Treasures of Japan.



- The sword was discovered by the storm god Susanoo in the body of the eight-headed dragon, which he killed and later was presented to his sister Amaterasu, as a sign of apology.

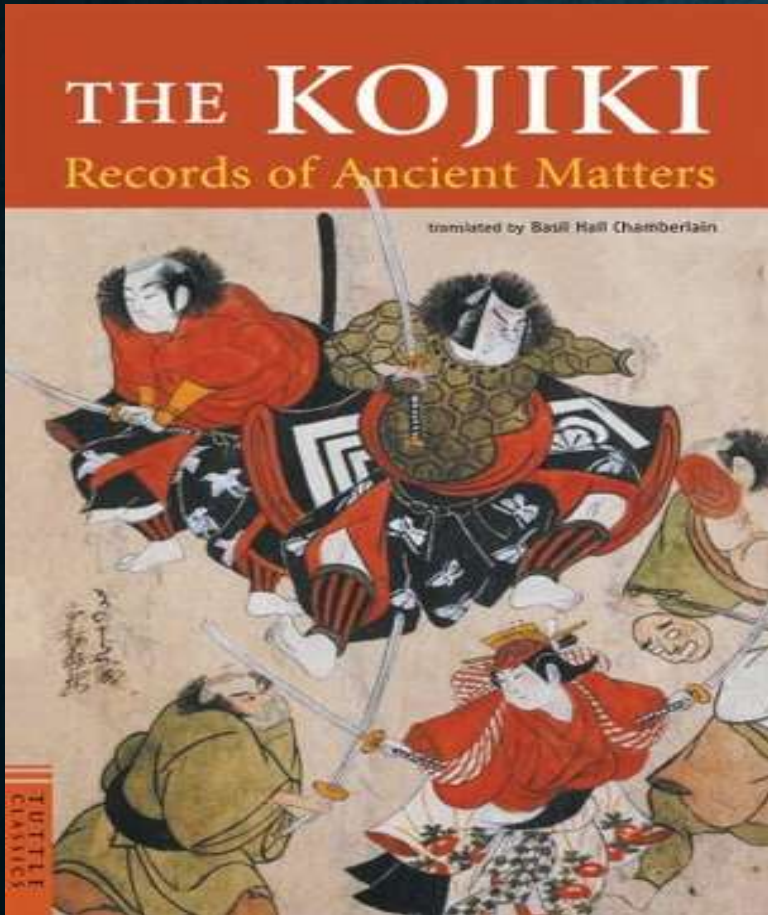
# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?



- It derives its name from an incident when the hero **Yamato Takeru** was attacked by Ainu warriors, who started a grass fire around him, from which he escaped by cutting down the burning brush with the sword.
- **Yamato Takeru No Mikoto** is a Japanese folk hero who is the legendary son of the 12th emperor **Keikō** ... Takeru is noted for his courage and ingenuity,

# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?

- His story appears in the chronicles *Kojiki* and *Nihon Shoki*...in the stories, he subdued two bad-mannered Kumaso warriors by cleverly disguising himself as a woman and at a banquet in his honor, killing them while they were drunk.



- He cut away the burning grass of a fire set by the Ainu tribesmen with the miraculous sword Kusanagi and escaped...his adventures ended on the plains of Tagi, where he was stricken with illness and, according to legend, changed into a **White Plover** and disappeared from the world.

# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?

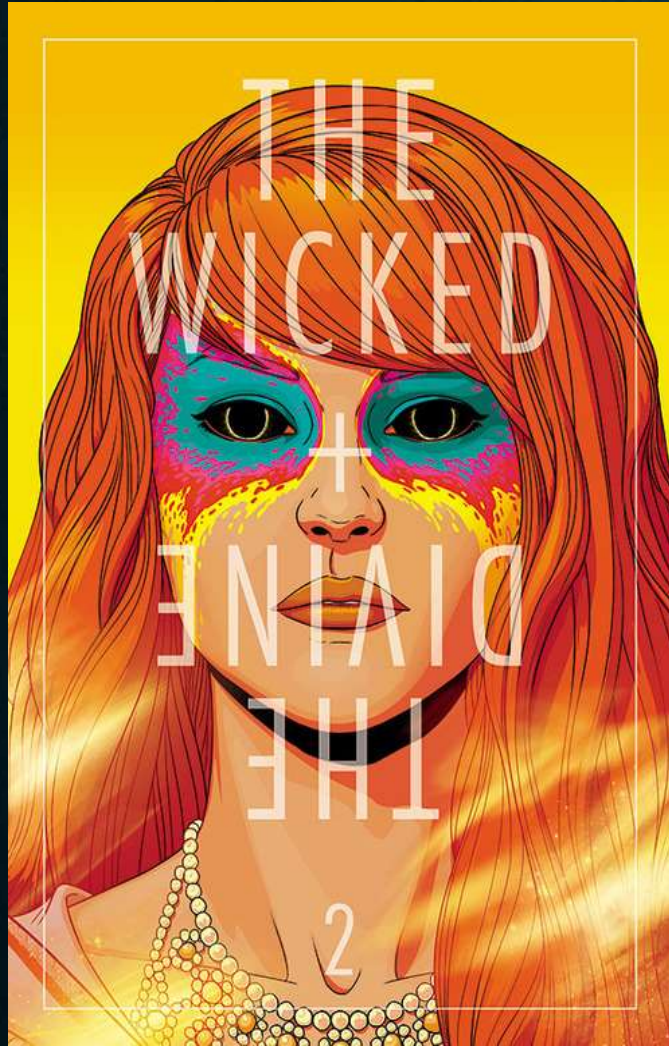


- History Mystery Time: **Who was Amaterasu and The Japanese Creation Myth!!**



# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?

- The Sun Goddess **Amaterasu** is considered Shinto's most important **Kami**.



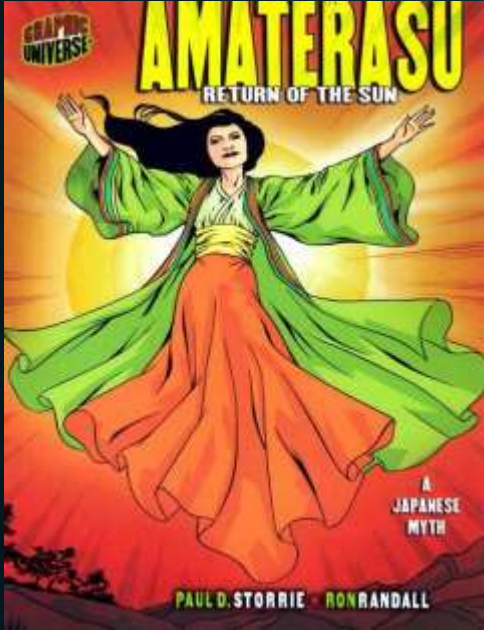
- Amaterasu is such an important part of Japanese culture that Anime cartoons, movies and even videogames have been created using her image and mythological legend.

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# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?



# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?



- **History Story Time!!!!**

# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?

- Japanese Creation Myth



- Long ago all the elements were mixed together with one germ of life. This germ began to mix things around and around until the heavier part sank and the lighter part rose. A muddy sea that covered the entire earth was created.

# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?



- From this ocean grew a green shoot. It grew and grew until it reached the clouds and there it was transformed into a god. Soon this god grew lonely and it began to create other gods. The last two gods it made, Izanagi (I-Zan-Agi) and Izanami (I-Zan-Ami), were the most remarkable. One day as they were walking along they looked down on the ocean and wondered what was beneath it. Izanagi thrust his staff into the waters and as he pulled it back up some clumps of mud fell back into the sea. They began to harden and grow until they became the islands of Japan.

# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?

- The two descended to these islands and began to explore, each going in different directions. They created all kinds of plants. When they met again they decided to marry and have children to inhabit the land. The first child Izanami bore was a girl of radiant beauty. The gods decided she was too beautiful to live in Japan, so they put her up in the sky and she became the sun. Their second daughter, Tsuki-yami, became the moon and their third and unruly son, Sosano-wo, was sentenced to the sea, where he creates storms.





# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?



- Later, their first child, Amaterasu, ([Am-Uh-Ter-Ah-Sue](#)) bore a son who became the emperor of Japan and all the emperors since then have claimed descent from him.

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# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?

- According to Shinto, the **Meoto Iwa** or the **Loved One and Loved One Rocks** represent the union of Izanagi and Izanami.



- The rocks, therefore, celebrate the union in marriage of man and woman...the rope, which weighs over a ton, must be replaced several times a year in a special ceremony...the larger rock, said to be male, has a small *torii* at its peak.

# WHO ARE THE YAMATO?

