



**The Daimyo Divide Japan**



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# The Daimyo Divide Japan

- Main Idea (Objective) :



- As the Shogun's power weakened, Japan broke into warring kingdoms run by rulers known as Daimyo.

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- Lecture Focus (Essential Question) :



- Have you ever been promised something and then been upset when the promise was broken? Lets look into how Japan's Shogun lost power because the Samurai felt he had broken his promises.

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- The Kamakura Shogunate ruled Japan until 1333 C.E.



- By that time, many Samurai had become resentful of the Shoguns power and lack of loyalty to them.



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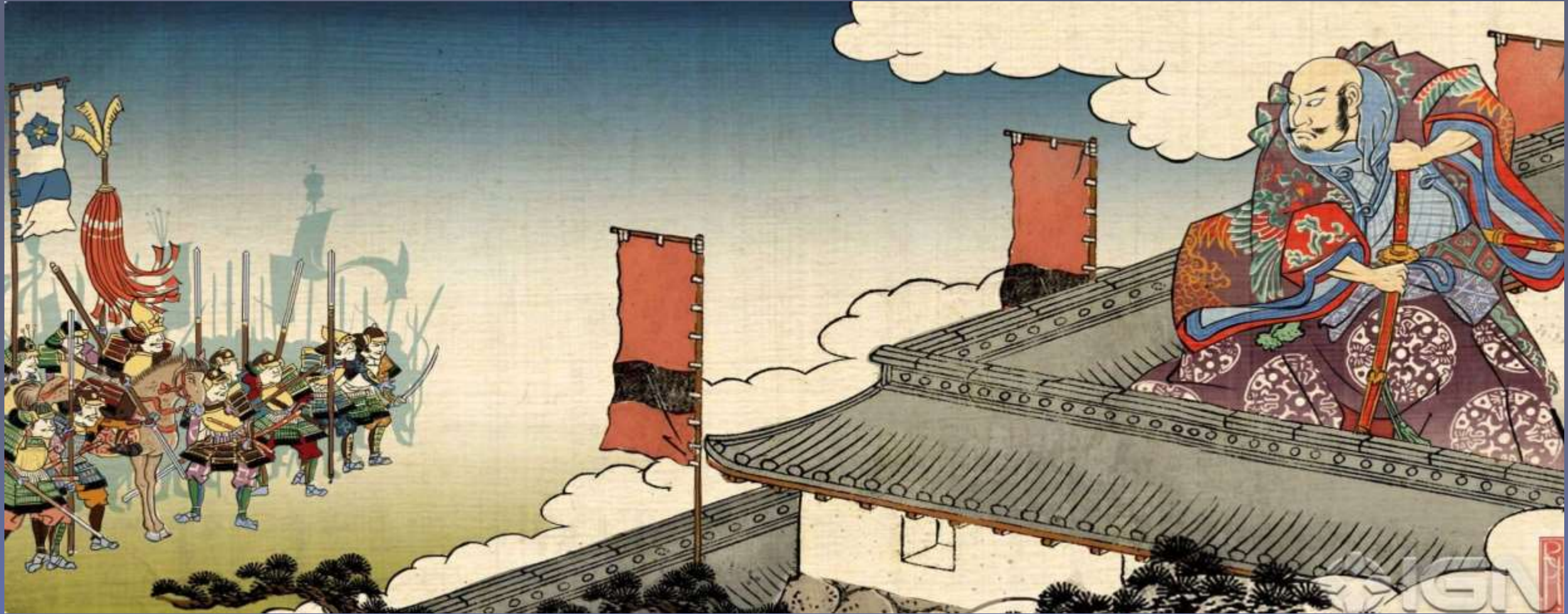
- Over the years Samurai divided their lands among their sons and because of this the piece of land each Samurai owned became smaller and smaller.



- By the 1300's C.E., many Samurai felt they no longer owed the Shogun loyalty because he had not given them enough land.

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- In 1331 C.E., the Emperor rebelled and many Samurai came to his aid.



- The revolt succeeded, but the Emperor was not able to gain control of Japan because he too refused to give more land to the Samurai.



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- Since the Emperor could not gain control of Japan a general named **Ashikaga Takaiji** turned against the Emperor and appointed himself as Shogun in 1333.
  - A new government known as the **Ashikaga Shogunate** had begun.



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## ▪ Questions:

- 1) Why had the Samurai felt that they no longer owed the Shogun loyalty?
- 2) Why did the Emperor not hold onto power in Japan following his rebellion against the Shogun?
- 3) Who came into power following the Emperors rebellion?
- 4) What was this new government called following the Emperors rebellion?

# The Daimyo Divide Japan

- **Questions:**

- **1) Why had the Samurai felt that they no longer owed the Shogun loyalty?**
  - **The Shogun had not given them enough lands for their personal uses**
- **2) Why did the Emperor not hold onto power in Japan following his rebellion against the Shogun?**
  - **He refused to give the Samurai who helped him more land**
- **3) Who came into power following the Emperors rebellion?**
  - **A general called Ashikaga Takauji**
- **4) What was the new government called following the Emperors rebellion?**
  - **Ashikaga Shogunate**

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- The Ashikaga Shoguns proved to be weak rulers and revolts broke out across Japan.



- The country soon divided into a number of small territories.

# The Daimyo Divide Japan



- Each of these small territories were controlled by a powerful military lord known as a **Daimyo**.
- **Daimyo** - one of the great lords who were vassals of the Shogun in feudal Japanese society.

# The Daimyo Divide Japan



- The Daimyo pledged loyalty to the Emperor and Shogun, however, they ruled their lands as if they were independent kingdoms.



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- To protect their lands, the Daimyo created their own local armies made up of Samurai warriors, just as nobles had done in the past.



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- Many Samurai actually became **Vassals** of the Daimyo.



- **Vassal** – A holder of land by feudal terms on conditions of honor and allegiance to the Daimyo.

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- Basically a Samurai gave an oath of loyalty to his Daimyo and promised to serve him in times of war.



- In return for their oaths, each Daimyo gave land to his Samurai warriors, more land than they had been given by the Shogun.

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- This bond of loyalty between a Lord and his Vassal is known as **Feudalism**, which was essentially a form of social structure in Feudal Japan.



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- With the breakdown of the central government, Japan's warriors fought each other.



- From 1467 C.E. to 1477 C.E., the country suffered through the disastrous **Onin War**.



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- The **Onin War** was a civil war that lasted 10 years during the **Muromach** period in Japan.



- The **Onin** conflict began as a controversy over who would become shogun after the retirement or death of Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimasa.

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- In 1464, Yoshimasa had no heir and he persuaded his younger brother, Ashikaga Yoshimi, to abandon the life of a monk and become his heir.
- Yoshimi was officially named heir, however, in 1465, the unanticipated birth of a son to Yoshimasa put these plans in question.
- The infant, Yoshihisa, caused friction between the two brothers.



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- The war initiated the **Sengoku Jidai**, “**The Warring States Period**”.
- This period was a long, drawn-out struggle for domination by individual Daimyo, resulting in a mass power struggle between the various houses of Japan to dominate the entire country.

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- War broke out in the city of Kyoto (Heian) between supporters of both the newborn child and Yoshimasa's younger brother, Yoshimi.



- In 1467 the uncertainty had caused a split amongst the warrior clans and the succession dispute became a pretext for a new struggle for military supremacy in Japan.

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- There was no clear-cut winner on the Onin War.



- The complex array of Daimyos, armies and Samurai simply fought themselves into exhaustion.

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- During the Onin War, the city of Kyoto (Heian) was almost completely destroyed.



- Armies passed back and forth through the city, burning temples, palaces and homes.

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- For 100 years after the Onin War, a series of weak Shoguns tried to reunite Japan.



- Powerful Daimyo, however, resisted their control and fighting began to spread once again throughout Japan.

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- This violence finally brought down the Ashikaga Shogunate in 1567.



- By that time, only a handful of powerful Daimyo remained in control of their lands and all of which were extremely eager to defeat their rivals and rule all of Japan.

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- **Questions:**

- **1)** What is a Daimyo and who did they pledge their loyalty to?
- **2)** What did the Daimyo use to protect their lands?
- **3)** What was expected of a Samurai when they became a vassal of the Daimyo?
- **4)** What was this bound of loyalty called?

# The Daimyo Divide Japan

- **Questions:**

- **1) What is a Daimyo and who did they pledge their loyalty to?**

  - **Military lords of small territories, they pledged their loyalty to the Shogun and the Emperor**

- **2) What did the Daimyo use to protect their lands?**

  - **Local armies made up of Samurai Warriors**

- **3) What was expected of a Samurai when they became a vassal of the Daimyo?**

  - **Samurai gave an oath of loyalty to his individual Daimyo**

- **4) What was this bound of loyalty called?**

  - **Feudalism**

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- **Lecture Check:**

- Answer the following questions in a well crafted 2-3 sentence response.
- **Why were Shoguns unable to regain control of Japan after the Onin War? Think about the events of the Onin War and how Daimyos played a part in the conflict.**

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- **Lecture Check:**

- Answer the following questions in a well crafted 2-3 sentence response.

- **Why were Shoguns unable to regain control of Japan after the Onin War? Think about the events of the Onin War and how Daimyos played a part in the conflict.**

- **The powerful Daimyo successfully resisted the Shoguns control and wanted to take power for themselves.**



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- **Expository Writing:**

- Answer the following expository writing question in a format of your choosing. Be creative with the style and manner in which you answer this particular question.
  - **Create a constitution, or a plan for government, that completely describes the relationship between the Emperor, Shogun, Daimyo and Samurai. How should the lines of the government be drawn in order to control the country of Japan.**

# History Mystery Time: Sumo



- History Mystery: **Sumo Wrestling**

# History Mystery Time: Sumo

- **Sumo** is a competitive full contact wrestling sport where a *Rikishi* (wrestler) attempts to force another wrestler out of a circular ring or to touch the ground with anything other than the soles of the feet.



- Sumo literally mean "**striking one another**".

# History Mystery Time: Sumo

- The sport originated in Japan, the only country where it is practiced professionally.



- Sumo is generally considered to be a *Gendai Budō* (a modern Japanese martial art), and has a history spanning many centuries.

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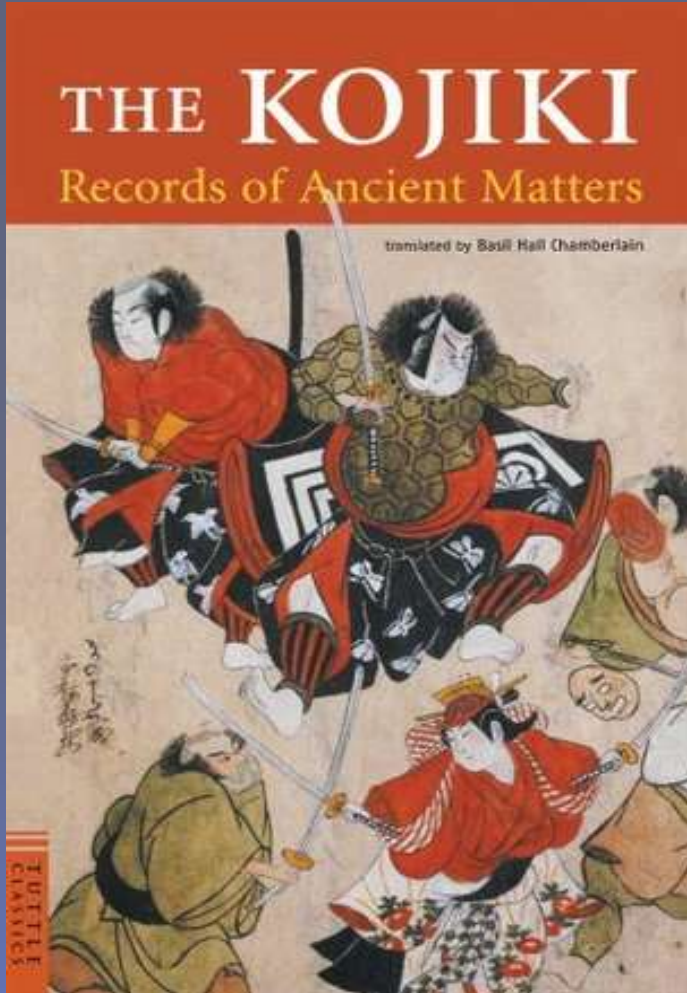
# History Mystery Time: Sumo



- Many ancient traditions have been preserved in **Sumo**, and even today the sport includes many ritual elements, such as the use of salt purification, from the days when sumo was used in the Shinto religion.

# History Mystery Time: Sumo

- The earliest written mention of Sumo is found in the **Kojiki** (Record of Ancient Matters), a book from the year 712 C.E., which is the oldest existing example of Japanese writing.



- The Kojiki relates a legend about how possession of the Japanese islands was determined by a Sumo match.

# History Mystery Time: Sumo

- According to a legend found in the Kojiki, about 2,500 years ago, the gods **Takemikazuchi** and **Takeminakata** grappled on the shores of Izumo along the Japan Sea's coast, until the Takeminakata finally lost.



- Thus control of Japan was ceded to the Japanese people led by Takemikazuchi, who is said to have established the imperial family from which the present emperor traces his ancestry.



# History Mystery Time: Sumo

- Today life as a wrestler is highly regimented, with rules laid down by the Japan Sumo Association.



- Most Sumo wrestlers are required to live in communal "sumo training stables", known in Japanese as **Heya**, where all aspects of their daily lives, from meals to their manner of dress, are dictated by strict tradition.



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