



JAPANESE RELIGION AND CULTURE

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JAPANESE RELIGION AND CULTURE

- **Main Idea (Objective):**



- Buddhism and Shinto shaped much of Japan's culture. These religions affected Japanese art, architecture, novels and plays.

JAPANESE RELIGION AND CULTURE

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



- Have you ever seen paintings, sculptures and works of literature that have religious subjects or messages? Lets look at medieval Japan, and see how the religions of Shinto and Buddhism greatly influenced the arts.

JAPANESE RELIGION AND CULTURE

- During the Middle Ages, religion was a part of everyday life for the Japanese.



- Most Japanese people came to believe in both Buddhism and Shintoism and worshiped at Shinto Shrines and Buddhist Temples.

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JAPANESE RELIGION AND CULTURE

- To the Japanese, each religion met different needs.



- Shinto was concerned with daily life, while Buddhism prepared people for the life to come.

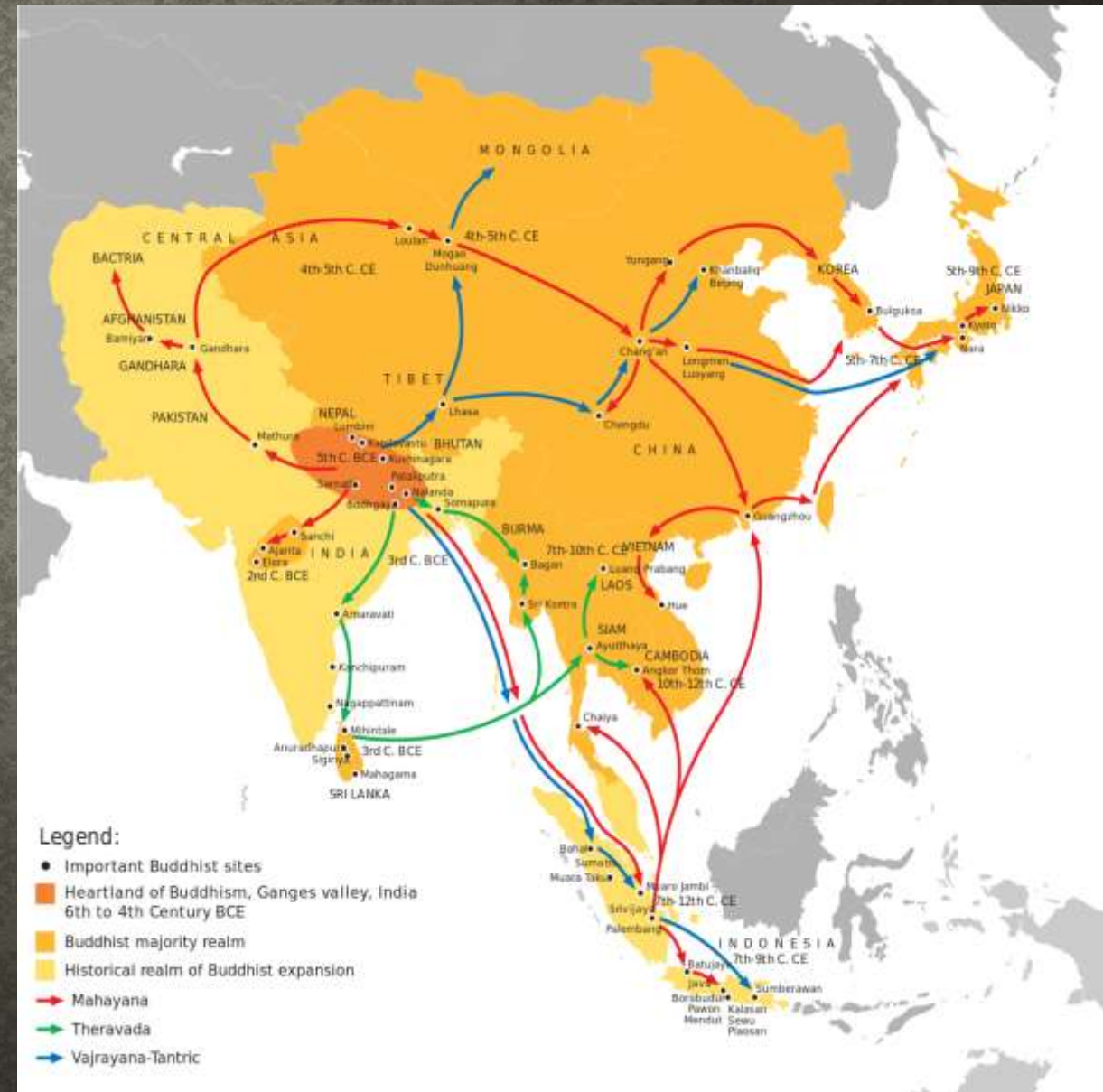
JAPANESE RELIGION AND CULTURE



- During the Middle Ages, Buddhist ideas inspired many Japanese to build temples, produce paintings and create entertainment like poems and plays.

PURE LAND BUDDHISM

- Remember back to our lesson on Buddhism in our China unit...Mahayana Buddhism was a Buddhist school that began in India and spread to China and Korea.



PURE LAND BUDDHISM

- By the time Buddhism reached Japan, it had developed into many different **sects**.



- **Sect** - a smaller religious group that has branched off from the main religion.

PURE LAND BUDDHISM

- One of the most important sects in Japan was **Pure Land Buddhism**.



- Pure Land Buddhism was a type of Mahayana Buddhism.

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PURE LAND BUDDHISM

- It won many followers in Japan because of its message about a happy life after death.
- **Amitabha** or **Lord Amida** was the Buddha of Love and Mercy and is the principal Buddha in the Pure Land sect...according to their scriptures, Amitabha possesses positive virtues resulting from good deeds over countless past lives as a **Bodhisattva**.
- **Bodhisattva** - a person who is able to reach nirvana but chooses to stay on earth and guide people away from suffering.



PURE LAND BUDDHISM

- The Pure Land Buddhist believed Amida had created a paradise above the clouds .



- To get there, all Pure Land Buddhist had to do was have faith in Amida and chant his name during meditation.

PURE LAND BUDDHISM

- Pure Land Buddhism was spread throughout Japan by a man named **Honen**, who believed that the only way to salvation lay in repeating Amitabha's name.



- Reciting the name of Amitabha was known as **Nianfo** or "**recitation of the Buddha's name**".

PURE LAND BUDDHISM

- **Questions:**
- **1)** During the Middle Ages what did Buddhist ideas inspire many Japanese people to create?
- **2)** What are smaller religious groups called?
- **3)** Why did Pure Land Buddhism find so many followers in Japan?
- **4)** What was the main Buddha in Pure Land Buddhism and what did he build?

PURE LAND BUDDHISM

- **Questions:**
- **1)** During the Middle Ages what did Buddhist ideas inspire many Japanese people to create?
 - **Temples, Produce paintings, write poems and plays**
- **2)** What are smaller religious groups called?
 - **Sects**
- **3)** Why did Pure Land Buddhism find so many followers in Japan?
 - **It promised a happy life after death**
- **4)** What was the main Buddha in Pure Land Buddhism and what did he build?
 - **Amitabha, a paradise above the clouds**

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WHAT IS ZEN BUDDHISM?

- Another important Buddhist sect in Japan was **Zen**, which we looked at during our Buddhist lesson a few weeks back. (An **Enso** is a circle that is hand-drawn in one or two brushstrokes to express a moment when the mind is free to let the body create.)



- What do you remember about **Zen Buddhism**?

WHAT IS ZEN BUDDHISM?

- Buddhist monks brought Zen teachings back to Japan from China during the 1100's C.E.



- Zen taught that people could find inner peace through self control, intense meditation and a simple way of life.

WHAT IS ZEN BUDDHISM?

- Followers of Zen learned to control their bodies through **Martial Arts**.



- **Martial Arts** - Various sports or combat skills, mainly of Japanese origin, that originated as forms of self-defense.

WHAT IS ZEN BUDDHISM?



- Martial arts started out as a way for monks to stay healthy, however, it appealed to the Samurai of Japan, who would use the art form as a method of training.

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WHAT IS ZEN BUDDHISM?

- Followers of Zen Buddhism also practiced **meditation**.



- During meditation, a person sat cross-legged and motionless for hours, with the mind cleared of all thoughts and desires.

WHAT IS ZEN BUDDHISM?

- The intended purpose of meditation is to focus ones mind on self reflection in the attempt to reach a higher level of thinking and understanding of the world.



- Meditation helped people to relax and truly find inner peace.

WHAT IS ZEN BUDDHISM?

- **Questions:**
- **1)** Who brought Zen to Japan and from what country?
- **2)** What activity did Zen Buddhist learn to control their bodies?
- **3)** What is the intended purpose of meditation?

WHAT IS ZEN BUDDHISM?

- **Questions:**
- **1) Who brought Zen to Japan and from what country?**
 - **Buddhist monks brought Zen to Japan from China in the 1100's**
- **2) What activity did Zen Buddhist learn to control their bodies?**
 - **Zen Buddhist controlled their bodies through Martial Arts**
- **3) What is the intended purpose of meditation?**
 - **Allow people to self reflect and find inner peace**

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LINKING THE PAST AND THE PRESENT: MARTIAL ARTS

- **Then:** According to legend, the Chinese monks who brought martial arts to Japan in the 1100's learned them from an Indian monk named **Bodhidharma**.



- In the sixth century, he traveled to China and found Buddhist monks at a temple who were weak and sleepy from intense meditation.

LINKING THE PAST AND THE PRESENT: MARTIAL ARTS



- According to Chinese legend, he then began the physical training of the monks of Shaolin Monastery that led to the creation of Shaolin Kung Fu.

LINKING THE PAST AND THE PRESENT: **MARTIAL ARTS**

- Martial arts are a way for monks to strengthen their bodies.



- Over time, many different forms of martial arts developed to keep monks bodies as strong as their minds were from constant meditation.

LINKING THE PAST AND THE PRESENT: **MARTIAL ARTS**

- **Now:** Martial arts remains popular and respected all over the globe.



- Current forms include **Karate**, **Jujitsu** and **Aikido** from Japan; **Kung Fu** from China; and **Tae Kwon Do** from Korea.

LINKING THE PAST AND THE PRESENT: **MARTIAL ARTS**

- **Lecture Check:**

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

- **What sports or activities do you participate in that help strengthen your mind and body?**

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LINKING THE PAST AND THE PRESENT: **MARTIAL ARTS**

- **Lecture Check:**

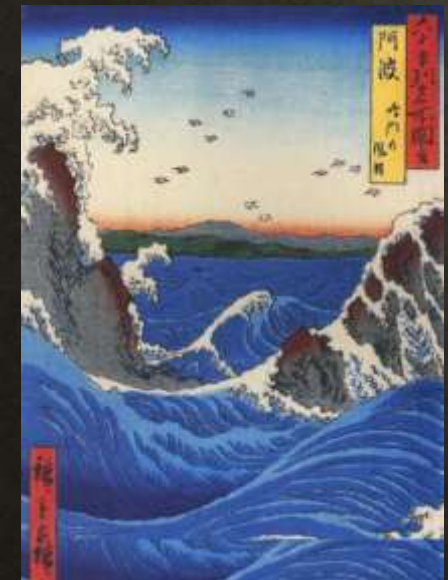
- Answer the following questions in a well crafted 2-3 sentence response.

- **What sports or activities do you participate in that help strengthen your mind and body?**

- ***Students answers will vary, I personal weight life, play golf, baseball and constantly read various books.**

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- During the Middle Ages, the Japanese borrowed artistic ideas from China and Korea.
- Then, they went on to develop their own unique styles.
- The arts of Japan revealed the Japanese love of beauty and simplicity.



ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- During the Middle Ages, artisans in Japan made wooden statues, furniture and household items.



- On many of their works, they used a shiny black and red coating called **lacquer**.

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- From the Chinese, Japanese artists learned to do landscape painting.

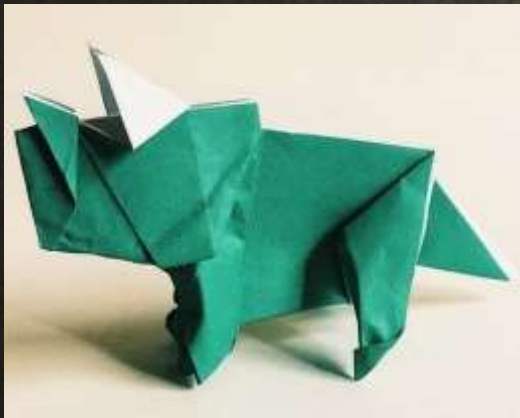


- Using ink or watercolors, artists painted scenes of nature or battles on paper scrolls or on silk.

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ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- Japanese nobles at the Emperor's court learned to fold paper to make decorative objects.



- If you remember back to the Shinto lesson, this art form of folding paper was called **Origami**, or “**Paper of the Spirits**”.

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- Buddhist monks and Samurai even turned tea drinking into a beautiful ceremony.



- **The Japanese Tea Ceremony**, also called the **Way of Tea**, is a Japanese cultural activity involving the ceremonial preparation and presentation of **Matcha**, “**Powdered Green Tea**” ...this tradition is still practiced today.

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- Architects in Japan used very specific styles of buildings and designs when creating shrines and temples.



- Shinto Shrines were built in the Japanese style near a sacred rock, tree or other natural feature that they considered sacred or simply beautiful.

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- Usually a shrine was a wooden building, with a single room and roof made of rice straw.



- People would enter these shrines through a sacred Torii gate, that as you know can be found all throughout Japan today.

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- Unlike Shinto Shrines, Buddhist temples were built in the Chinese style.



- They normally had massive tiled roofs that were held up by thick wooden pillars.

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ART AND ARCHITECTURE



- These temples were richly decorated and contained many statues, paintings and altars.

ART AND ARCHITECTURE



- Around their buildings, the Japanese created gardens designed to imitate nature in a miniature form.

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- Most of these gardens had carefully placed rocks, raked sand and various plants.



- Japanese gardens were shaped in a simplistic manner to create a feeling of peace and calmness.

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- **Questions:**

- **1)** What did the arts of Japan reveal about the Japanese people?
- **2)** When The Japanese artists learned to use ink and water colors to create art, what did they paint?
- **3)** Describe the typical Japanese garden and the emotions they invoked.

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ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- **Questions:**

- **1) What did the arts of Japan reveal about the Japanese people?**

- **The Japanese people loved simplicity and beauty**

- **2) When The Japanese artists learned to use ink and water colors to create art, what did they paint?**

- **They painted beautiful nature scenes and battles on paper scrolls or silk**

- **3) Describe the typical Japanese garden and the emotions they invoked.**

- **They imitated nature on a miniature scale with rocks, sand and plants. They brought on feelings of peace and calmness**

POEMS AND PLAYS

- During the 500's B.C.E., the Japanese borrowed China's writing system.



- They wrote their language in Chinese picture characters that would actually stand for entire words.

POEMS AND PLAYS

- Due to the fact that the Japanese and Chinese languages were so different, the Japanese found it difficult to use these characters.
- Then, in the 800's C.E., they added symbols that stood for sounds, much like the letters of an alphabet...this addition made reading and writing much easier.



POEMS AND PLAYS

- We discussed **Calligraphy**, the art of writing beautifully, during our lesson on Shinto?



- This art form was very much admired in Japan for centuries and every well educated person was expected to practice it.

POEMS AND PLAYS

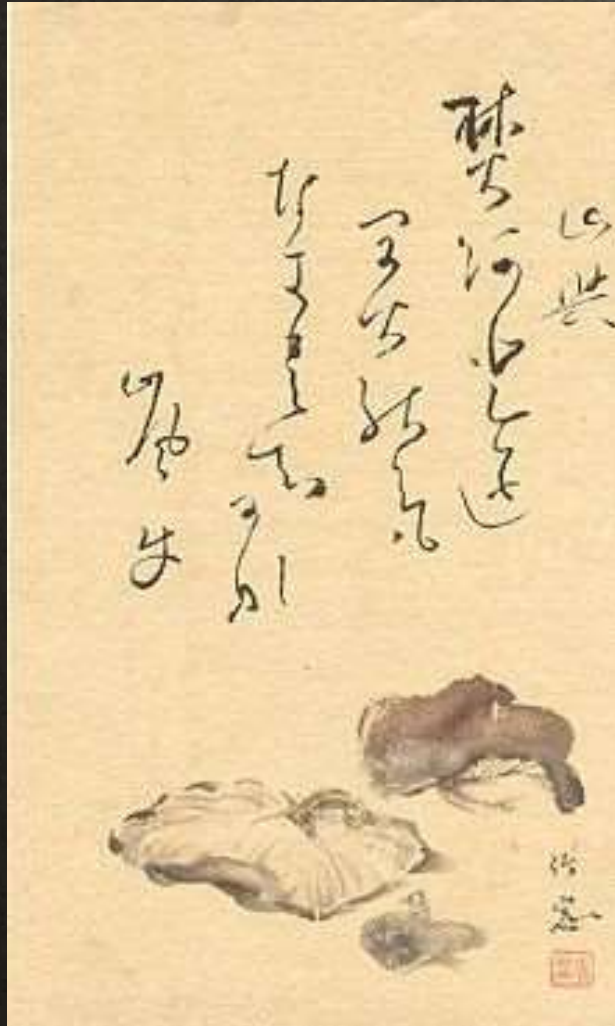


- A person's handwriting was considered to reveal much about a person's education, social standing and character.

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POEMS AND PLAYS

- During the Middle Ages, the Japanese wrote poems, stories and plays.



- Japan's oldest form of poetry was the **Tanka**.

POEMS AND PLAYS

- **Tanka's** was an unrhymed poem of five lines.



- Tanka poems captured nature's beauty and the joys or sorrows of life.

POEMS AND PLAYS

- The following Tanka was written by an anonymous poet:

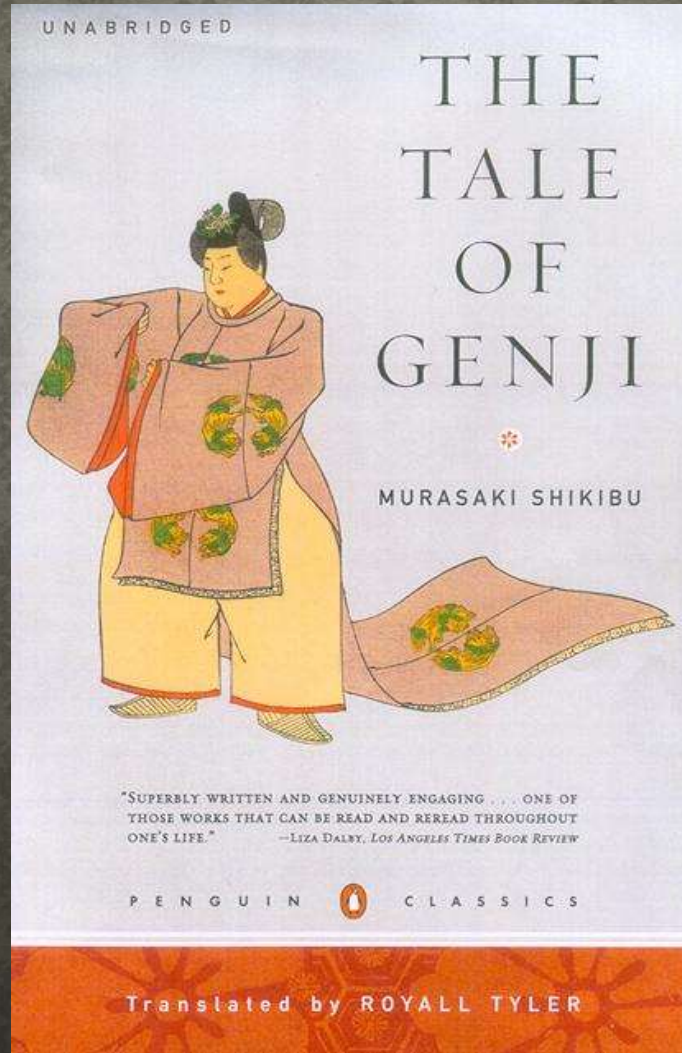
*“On Autumn nights
the dew is
colder than ever
in every clump of grasses
the insects weep”*

- Author unknown (Tanka from the Kokinshu)



POEMS AND PLAYS

- Women living in Heian wrote Japan's first great stories around 1000 C.E.



- One woman, **Lady Murasaki Shikibu**, wrote *The Tale of Genji*.

POEMS AND PLAYS

- The Tale of Genji describes the adventures of **Hikaru Genji** or "Shining Genji", the son of an ancient Japanese Emperor, known to readers as Emperor Kiritsubo.

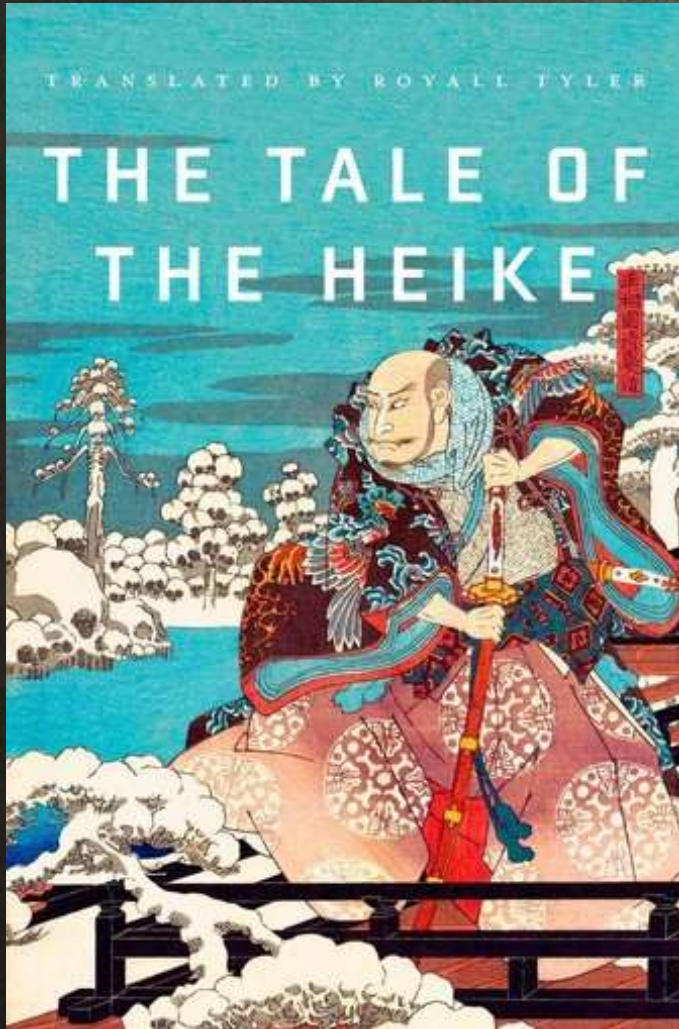


- Most historians believe that the work is the world's first novel, or long fictional story.

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POEMS AND PLAYS

- About 200 years later, Japan's writers began telling stirring tales about warriors in battle.



- The greatest collection of Samurai battles was the *Tale of Heike*, which describes the fight between the Taira and Minamoto clans.

POEMS AND PLAYS

- The Japanese also created plays...the oldest of which is called the **Noh**.



- Created during the 1300's, Noh plays were used to teach Japanese Buddhist and Shinto ideas.

POEMS AND PLAYS



- Noh plays were preformed on a simple, bare stage.
- The actors wore masks and elaborate robes.
- Noh masks were often carved from a single piece of wood and were lightweight, so an actor could wear it for several hours.



POEMS AND PLAYS

- Actors danced, gestured and chanted poetry to the music of drums and flutes.



- Noh plays are still preformed today in Japan and are known for being extremely long and somewhat boring.

POEMS AND PLAYS

- **Questions:**

- **1)** Where did Japan get their first writing system from and what did they have to add to make it easier to understand?
- **2)** What was Japan's oldest form of poetry called and how was it arranged?
- **3)** Who is credited with creating the first Japanese novel?
- **4)** What is the oldest type of Japanese play called?

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POEMS AND PLAYS

- **Questions:**
- **1) Where did Japan get their first writing system from and what did they have to add to make it easier to understand?**
 - **China, but the language was hard to understand so the Japanese added sounds, like letters of an alphabet**
- **2) What was Japan's oldest form of poetry called and how was it arranged?**
 - **Tanka and it was arranged five unrhymed lines**
- **3) Who is credited with creating the first Japanese novel?**
 - **Lady Murasaki Shikibu, *The Tale of Genji***
- **4) What is the oldest type of Japanese play called?**
 - **Noh**

HISTORY MYSTERY TIME: **THE GREAT BUDDHA OF KAMAKURA**



- History Mystery Time: **The Great Buddha of Kamakura**

HISTORY MYSTERY TIME: **THE GREAT BUDDHA OF KAMAKURA**

- The Great Buddha of Kamakura is a monumental outdoor bronze statue of Amida Buddha located at the **Kotoku-in Temple** in Kamakura, Japan.



- The bronze statue dates from 1252 C.E., in the Kamakura period, according to temple records and still remains one of Japans major Icons today.

HISTORY MYSTERY TIME: **THE GREAT BUDDHA OF KAMAKURA**

- The statue was originally a giant wooden Buddha, which was completed in 1243 after ten years of continuous labor.



- That original wooden statue was damaged by a storm in 1248, and the hall containing it was destroyed, so another statue of bronze was constructed.

HISTORY MYSTERY TIME: **THE GREAT BUDDHA OF KAMAKURA**

- The hall that housed the new Bronze Statue was destroyed by a storm in 1334, was rebuilt, and was damaged by yet another storm in 1369, and was rebuilt yet again.



- The last building housing the statue was washed away in the **tsunami** of September 20, 1498...since then, the Great Buddha has stood in the open air.

HISTORY MYSTERY TIME PART II: MURASAKI SHIKIBU



- History Mystery Time Part II: **Who was Murasaki Shikibu?!?**

HISTORY MYSTERY TIME PART II: MURASAKI SHIKIBU

- Murasaki Shikibu was a great novelist and poet of the Japanese Heian period.
- She was one of the first modern novelist and became famous from writing The Tale of Genji.
- Her work also included a diary and over 120 poems.



HISTORY MYSTERY TIME PART II: MURASAKI SHIKIBU

- Murasaki was born into the Fujiwara clan, a noble family, but not a rich clan.



- He father was a scholar and governor...in fact the name Shikibu refers to her fathers position at the Japanese court.

HISTORY MYSTERY TIME PART II: MURASAKI SHIKIBU



- Murasaki's mother and older sister died when she was just a child.
- Traditionally, children were raised by their mothers and their family, but Murasaki's father decided to raise his daughter himself.
- He broke another custom by educating his daughter in Chinese language and literature...subjects that were reserved for boys.

HISTORY MYSTERY TIME PART II: MURASAKI SHIKIBU

- Murasaki married and had a daughter, but her husband died only a few years after they were married.



- It was around that time that Murasaki began writing *The Tale of Genji* and working as an attendant to **Empress Akiko.**

HISTORY MYSTERY TIME PART II: MURASAKI SHIKIBU

- She based the novel on life at court, which she knew about through her fathers job and her own.



- The last reference to her is in 1014, but many scholars believe she lived for about another decade after that.

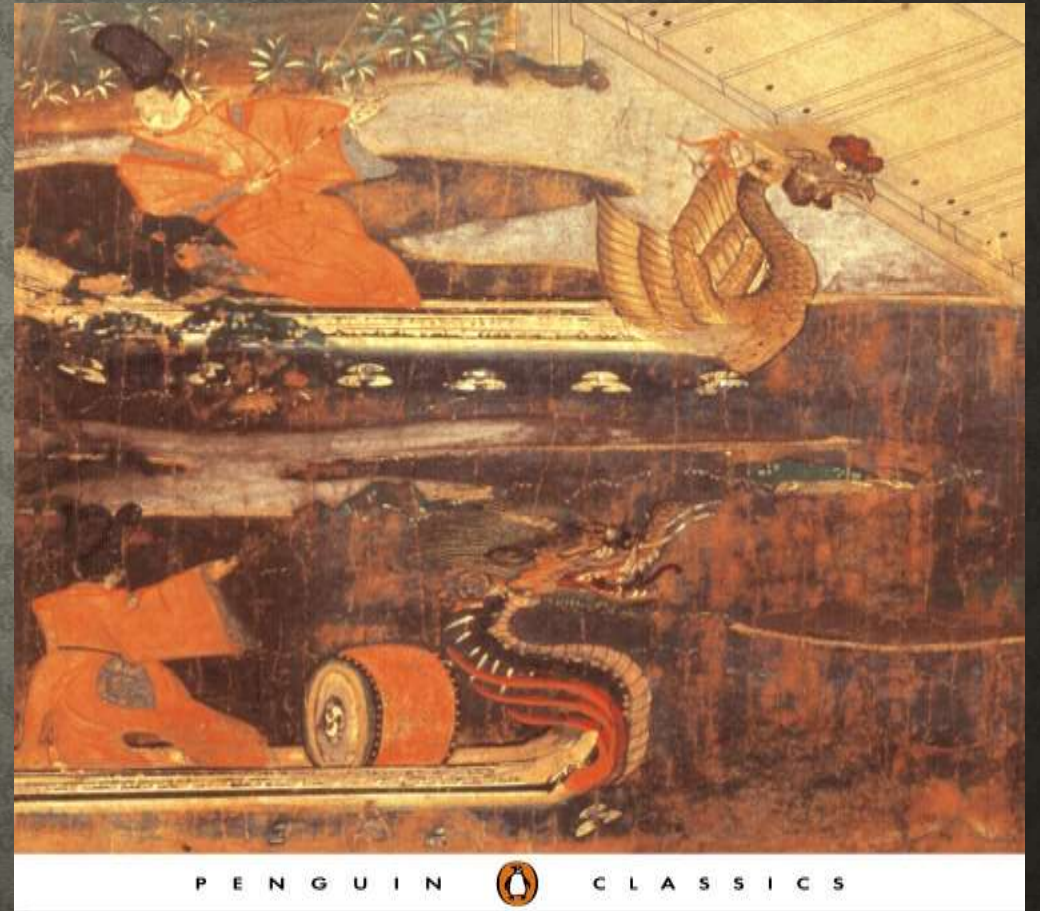
HISTORY MYSTERY TIME PART II: MURASAKI SHIKIBU

- Much about Murasaki's life and life at the Emperors Palace is revealed in her diary.
- This excerpt describes the preparations for a celebration honoring the birth of a new prince:

“Even the sight of the lowest menials (servants), chattering to each other as they walked around lighting the fire baskets under the trees by the lake and arranging the food in the garden, seemed to ask to the sense of the occasion. Torchbearers stood everywhere at attention and the scene was as bright as day.”

- Murasaki Shikibu,

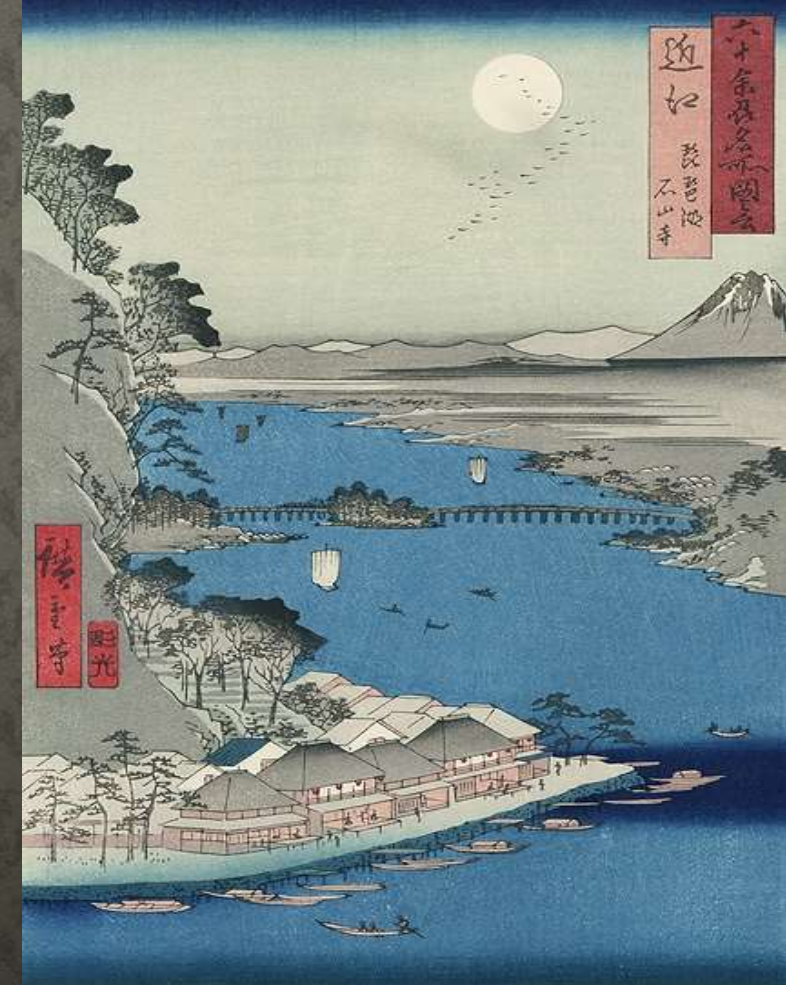
The Diary of Lady Murasaki



The Diary of Lady Murasaki

HISTORY MYSTERY TIME PART II: MURASAKI SHIKIBU

- According to legend, **The Tale of Genji** was inspired when Murasaki visited a temple at Lake Biwa.



- There, during a full moon of the eighth lunar month, Murasaki had a vision of a man she admired...a man who had been unjustly exiled.

HISTORY MYSTERY TIME PART II: MURASAKI SHIKIBU

- Quickly, she wrote down the vision, so she would not forget it.



- Eventually that first writing would become chapters **11** and **12** in *The Tale of Genji*.

HISTORY MYSTERY TIME PART II: MURASAKI SHIKIBU

- **Mystery Check:**

- Some historians have uncovered evidence that possibly over the years, the chapters of *The Tale of Genji* may have gotten mixed up.
 - Answer the following question in a well crafted open ended response!
 - How different would you favorite stories be if the pages somehow got out of order?