



■ Essential Question:

–What were the characteristics & causes of Japanese feudalism?

Geography of Japan

Japan is a series of islands off the coasts of Korea & China

Like Greece, Japan was divided by mountains & had few areas for farming

Before 400 A.D., Japan was not a unified nation but was ruled by hundreds of different family clans

Japan's island location provided protection from Chinese & Mongol invasions...

...but Japan was close enough to borrow cultural ideas from China

Mountains & Plains

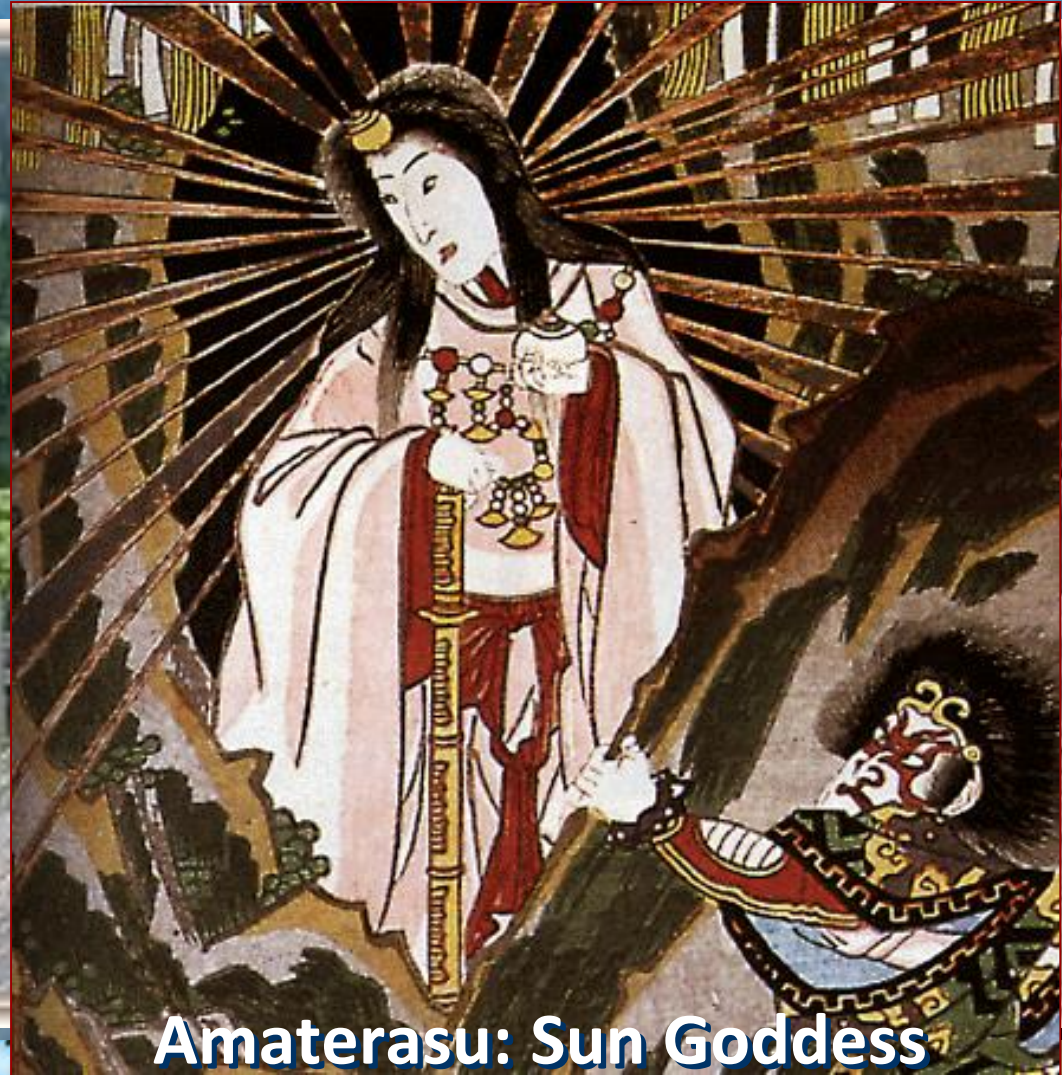


Japan's isolation gave rise to a unique Japanese culture, most specifically the Shinto religion

Shinto is a polytheistic religion based on the respect of nature & ancestor worship

Shinto worshipers believed in divine spirits called kami that live in nature

The most important of the Shinto gods is the sun goddess who gave light to the world



Amaterasu: Sun Goddess

Ruling Far

As Japan had more contact with Asia

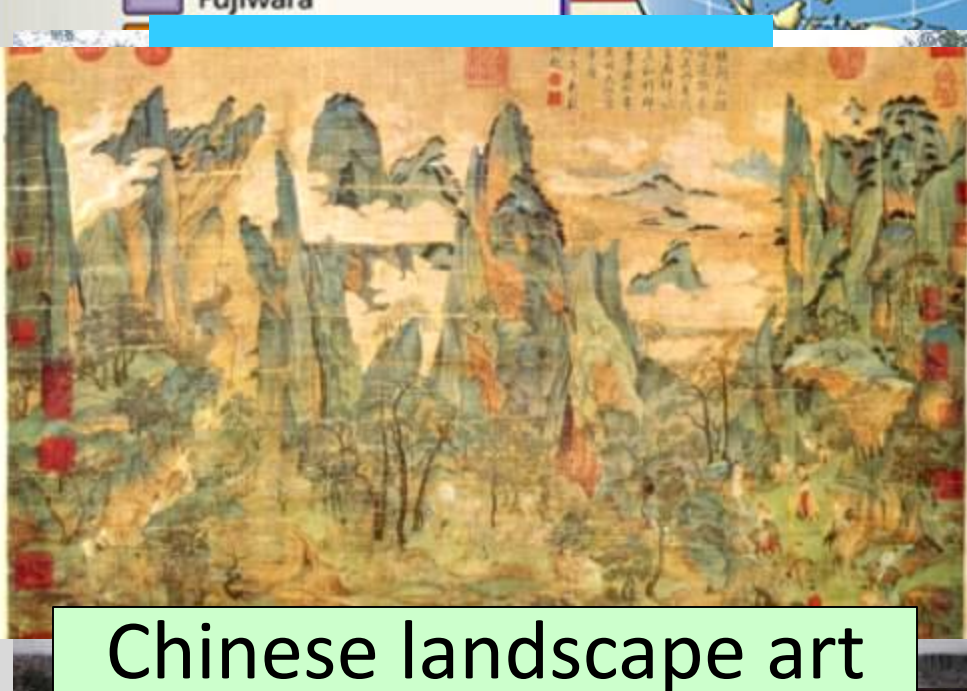
Unlike China, Japanese emperors often did not have power over clan leaders; Japan often had an emperor figurehead & a clan ruler with true power
rule by dynasties; The first Japanese emperor was said to have descended from the sun goddess



Japan tried, but failed, to model the Chinese examination system for gov't officials

Rulin
Main La
Fujiwara

Japan adopted Confucianism & blended Chinese styles of writing, architecture, & art



Chinese landscape art



Japanese landscape art

C

Ch

Ruling F

Main Land-c

In the mid-700s Buddhism was introduced in Japan from China & Korea

Buddhism was accepted by Japanese emperors, but in Japanese society, Buddhism & Shinto blended

An example of religious blending was Zen Buddhism

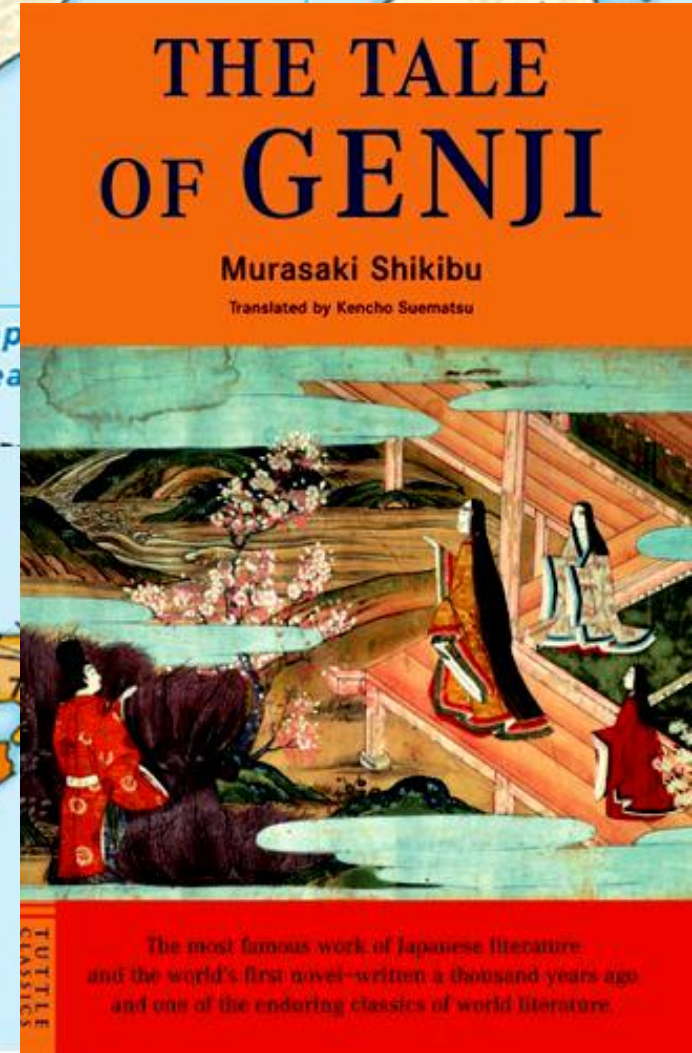


Classical Japan during the Heian Period

From 794-1185, Japan entered a classical era during the Heian Period

During this time, the imperial gov't was strong & Japan experienced an era of peace and prosperity

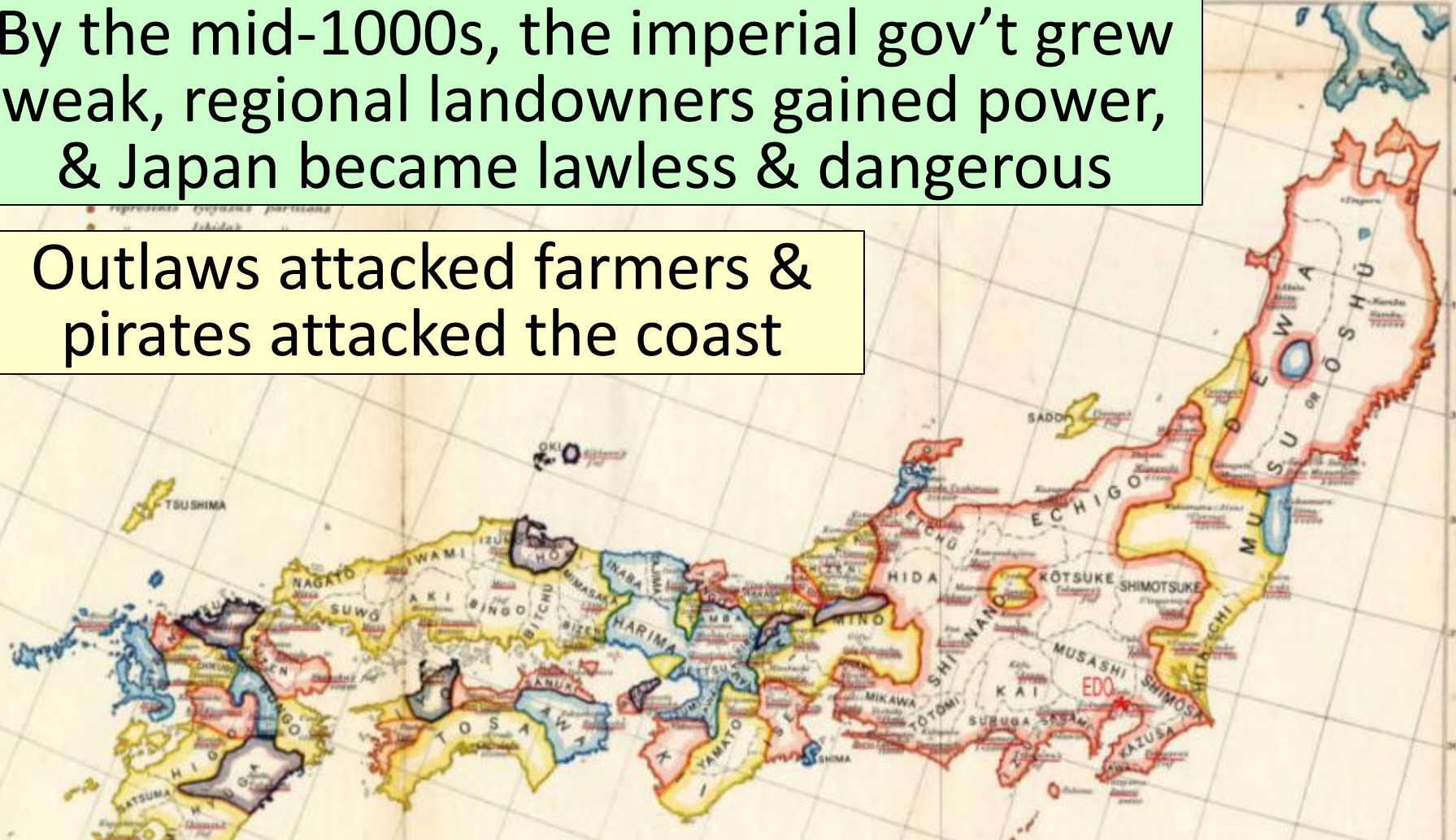
Japan developed a "golden age" in poetry, art, & literature



Japanese Feudalism

By the mid-1000s, the imperial gov't grew weak, regional landowners gained power, & Japan became lawless & dangerous

Outlaws attacked farmers & pirates attacked the coast



Rival clans competed for power & threw Japan into a series of civil wars

Quick Class Discussion: Based on these images, how were Japanese & European feudal systems similar?



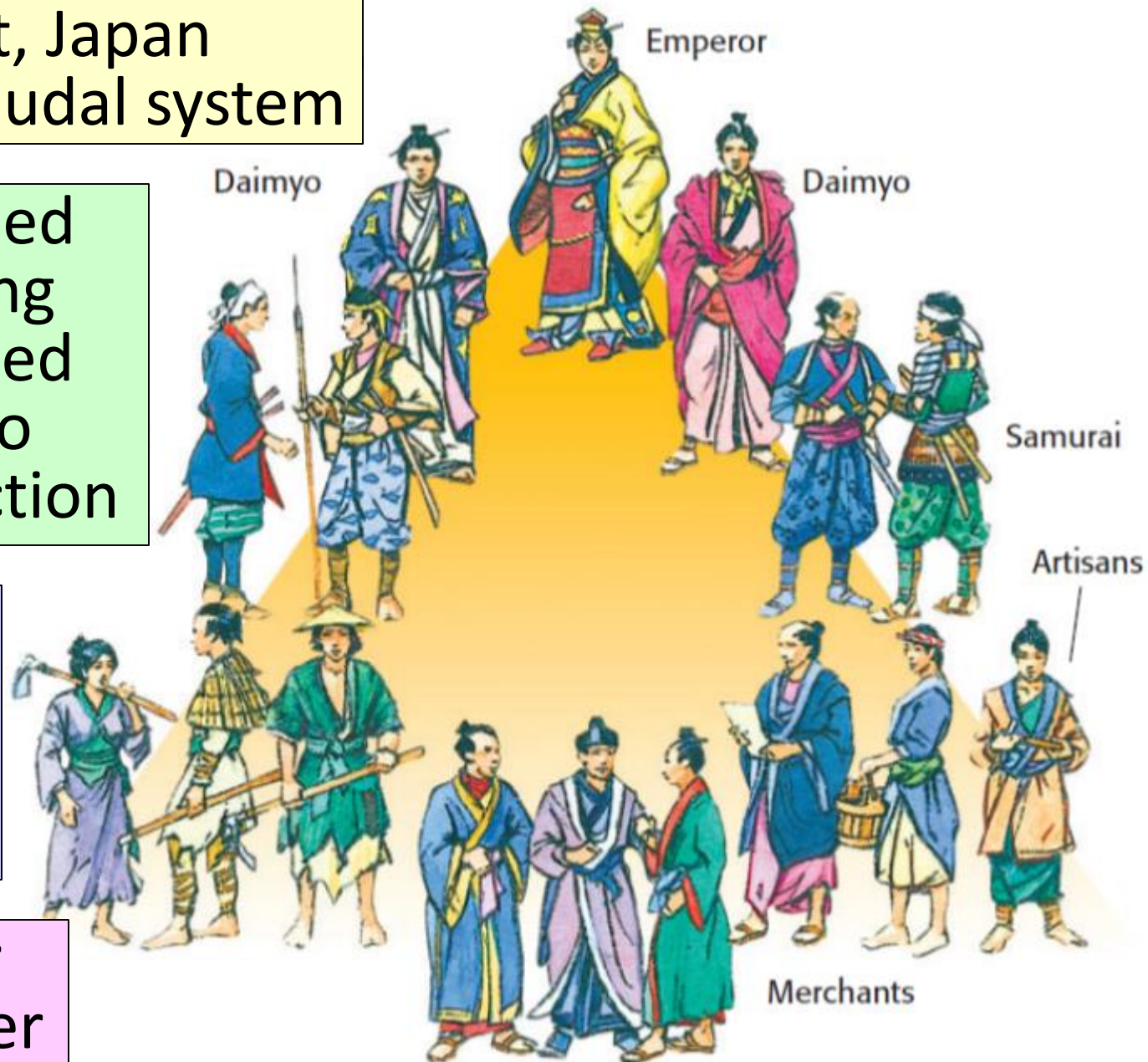
Japanese Feudalism

As a result, Japan developed a feudal system

Farmers traded land to strong warlords called daimyo who offered protection

Daimyo were served by loyal warriors called samurai

The emperor had little power



Japanese Feudalism

Helmets were made from iron plates to repel sword blows.

An iron mask was sometimes worn not only to protect the face, but to frighten the samurai's enemy as well.

Samurai swords were made by skilled artisans. The curvature of the blade makes the weapon more effective when slashing.

Individual iron plates provided protection and freedom of movement when in combat. As you can see, a samurai's armor was often richly decorated.

Samurai warriors were usually relatives or dependents of daimyo, although some were hired warriors called Ronin

Samurai warriors lived by a code of Bushido which demanded courage, loyalty, deity, fairness, & honor

Samurai were skilled swordsmen, but also used horses & guns (after the arrival of Europeans)

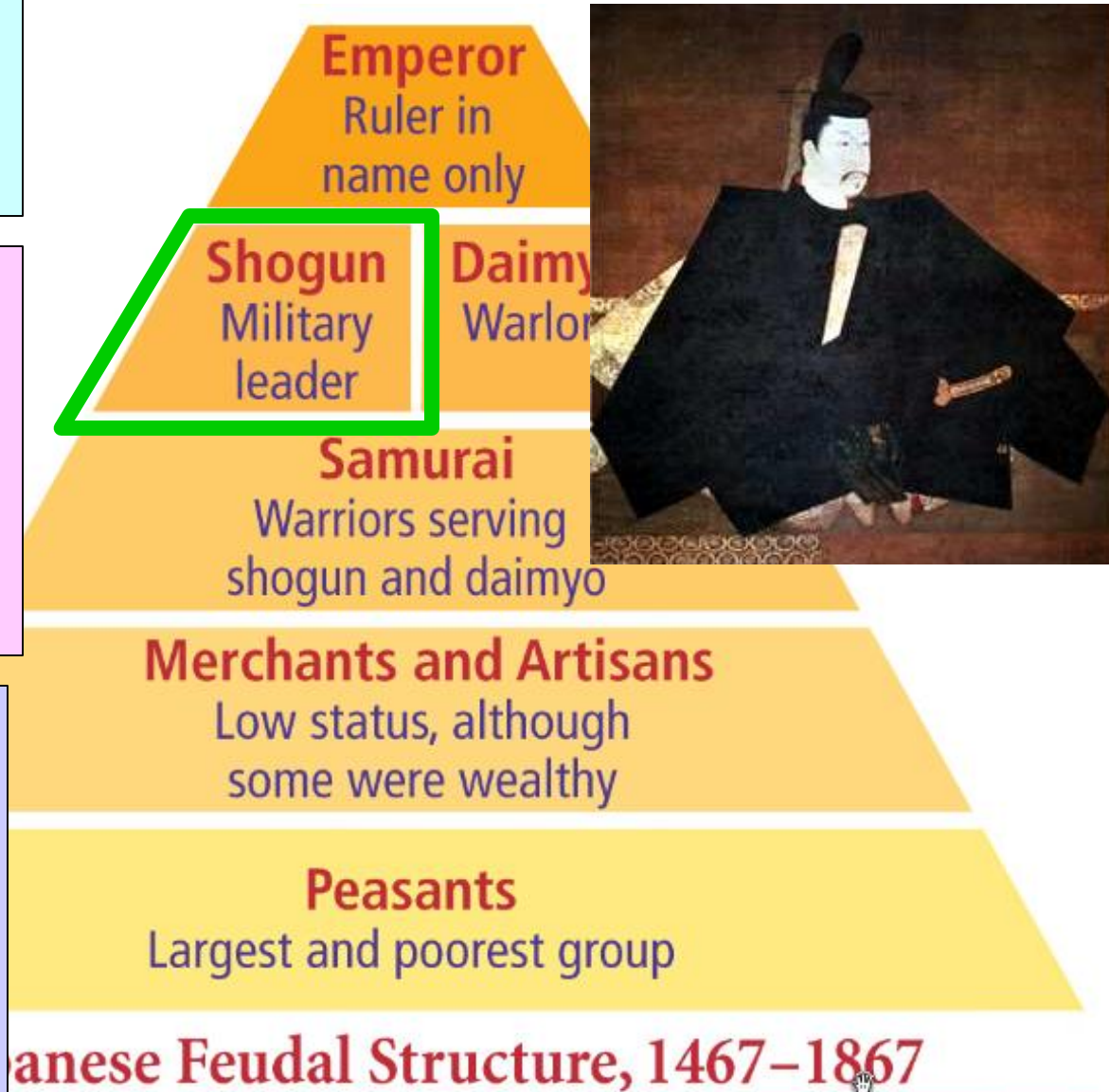


Japanese Feudalism

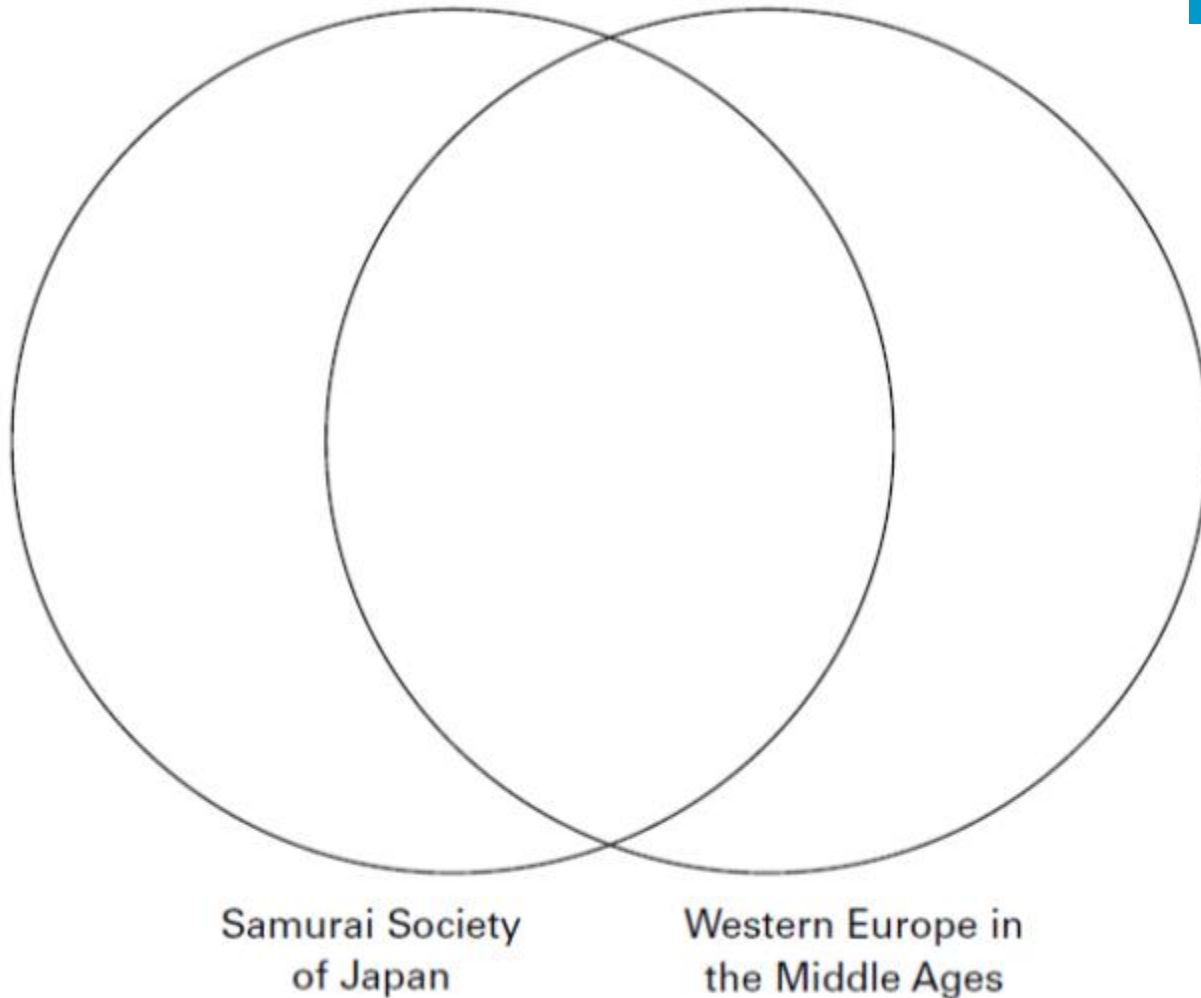
In 1192, the first shogun was named by the emperor

The emperor remained in place, but the shogun held real power & ruled as military dictators

Shoguns' power varied over time, but the pattern of gov't controlled by a shogun lasted until 1867



Closure Activity



- Who were the military leaders, landowners, & warriors in medieval Europe & feudal Japan?
 - How were they alike?
 - How were they different?



- Essential Question:

- What roles did Oda Nobunaga, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, & Tokugawa Ieyasu, play in unifying Japan?

- Warm-Up Question:

- Name three ways Japanese feudalism was similar to European feudalism.

From 1560 to 1600 , three powerful daimyo, known as the three unifiers, began to restore order & unify Japan

Oda Nobunaga



Toyotomi Hideyoshi



Tokugawa Ieyasu



From 1560 to 1600 , three powerful daimyo, known as the three unifiers, began to restore order & unify Japan

Oda Nobunaga

Toyotomi



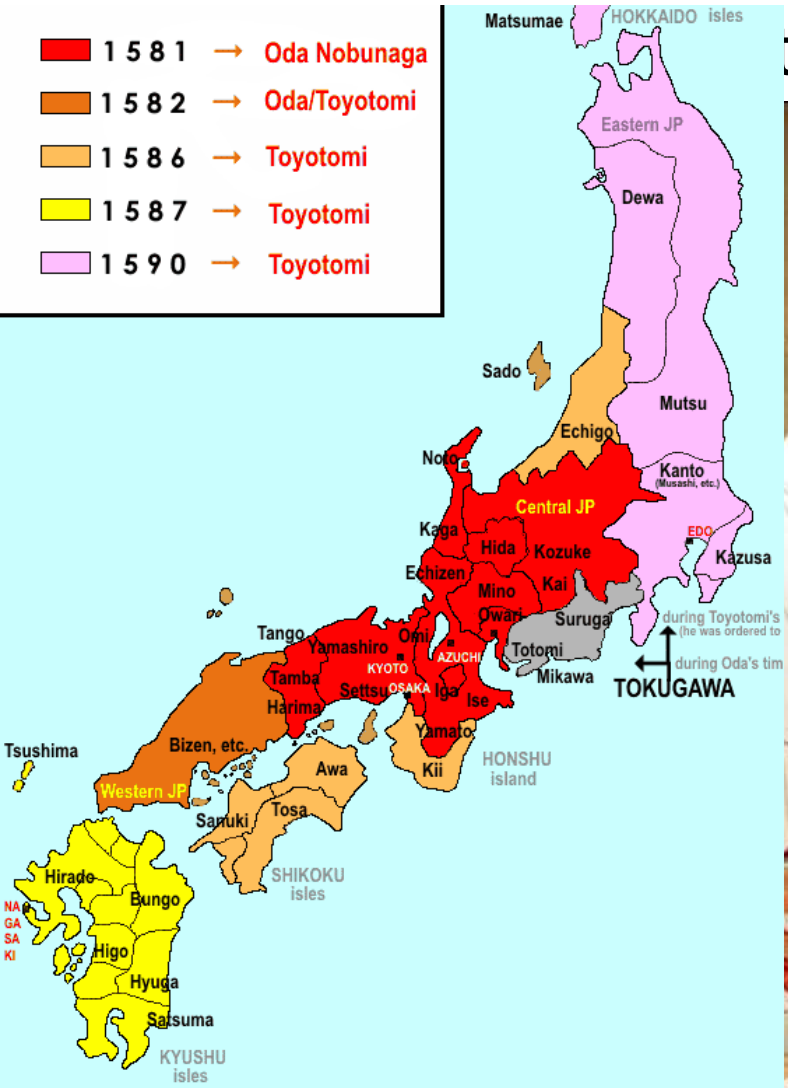
In 1568, a brutal daimyo named Oda Nobunaga conquered the Japanese capital of Kyoto

Oda seized power by force, was the first to use guns effectively, & eliminated Buddhist rivals that refused to accept rule by the emperor

By the time of his death in 1582, Japan was not unified

From 1560 to 1600 , three powerful daimyo, known as the three unifiers, began to restore order & unify Japan

- 1581 → Oda Nobunaga
- 1582 → Oda/Toyotomi
- 1586 → Toyotomi
- 1587 → Toyotomi
- 1590 → Toyotomi



Oda Nobunaga's best general was Toyotomi Hideyoshi who took over after Oda's death

Toyotomi was resourceful & not ruthless like Oda; He used political alliances, adoption, & marriage to gain power over the daimyo

By 1590, Toyotomi Hideyoshi controlled most of Japan & tried unsuccessfully to conquer Korea

From 1560 to 1600 , three powerful daimyo, known as the three unifiers, began to restore order & unify Japan

After Toyotomi 's death in 1598, one of his daimyo allies named Tokugawa Ieyasu completed the unification of Japan in 1600

hi Tokugawa Ieyasu



In 1603, Tokugawa became shogun of Japan, moved to capital to Edo (later called Tokyo), & restored gov't & order to Japan

Tokugawa ruled until 1615, but he created a line of succession called the Tokugawa Shogunate that ruled Japan until 1867

Tokugawa Shogunate

For more than 250 years, Tokugawa's successors ruled Japan as shoguns

During this time, Japan benefited from peace; The economy boomed & became more commercial



Tokugawa Shogunate

European merchants & missionaries first arrived in Japan in the mid-1500s

Tokugawa enjoyed trade with Europeans & was fascinated to learn about their military, new technologies, & ideas



Tokugawa Shogunate

Between 1549 & 1600, European missionaries had converted 300,000 Japanese to Christianity

This upset Tokugawa because the missionaries ignored Japanese cultural beliefs & laws

In 1612, Tokugawa banned Christianity & began ruthlessly persecuting Christians

All Japanese were forced to be faithful to Buddhism



Execution of Christians

Japanese Isolationism



Tokugawa shoguns decided to exclude foreign merchants & missionaries

By 1639, Japan adopted a “closed country policy” & ended almost all foreign contacts

Japanese isolation remained in place for over 200 years until the 1850s

During this era of isolation, Japan had profitable trade, became self-sufficient, limited foreign ideas, & reduced Europe's ability to colonize Japan

Deshima

Dutch Ships

Japan

One Japanese port at Deshima in Nagasaki Bay remained open but only to Dutch & Chinese merchants

