

Objective:

How did the Tokugawa Shogunate gain, consolidate, and maintain power in Japan?

- **Describe** how the Tokugawa Shogunate gained, consolidated, and maintained power in Japan.

Introduction

➡ **Directions:** Examine the map below and respond to the questions that follow.



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1. What two **countries** are nearest to Japan?

1a.

1b.

2. What **separates** Japan from its neighboring countries?

3. Japan is an **island** country, not a **mainland** country.

What are the **advantages** of being on an island?

What are the **disadvantages** of being on an island?

Geographic Context of Japan



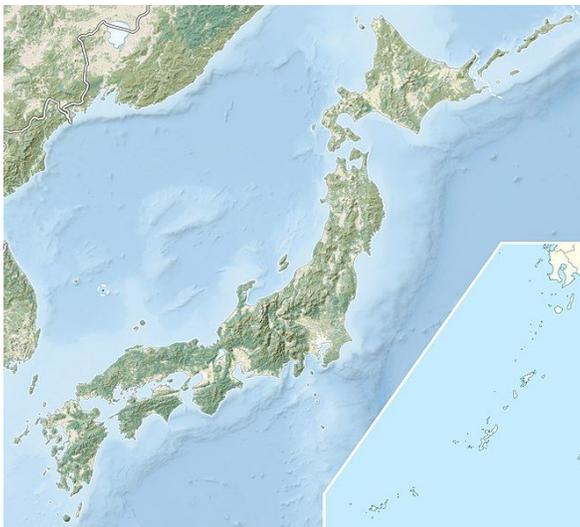
Contextualize



Think Like a Geographer

➡ **Directions:** Watch the video [“Geography of Japan”](#) by Mr. Zoller and [“Japan’s Geographic Challenge”](#) from Stratfor then complete the statements about Japanese geography below by describing the impact of each characteristic of Japan’s geography. If the answers are not in the video, then think about the effects of similar geographic characteristics on other societies you have studied.

island (n.)	a body of land surrounded by water
archipelago (n.)	chain of islands
Irregular coastline (n.)	a coastline that is not smooth and usually has many natural harbors
population density (n.)	the number of people living in a given space
mountainous (adj.)	having many mountains



[Topographic map of Japan](#) created by Alexrk2 is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 and courtesy of Wikicommons.

1. Japan is an **archipelago**, or a chain of **islands**. *As a result...*



[Photo of Mount Hotaka](#) created by Alpsdake Image is in the public domain and courtesy of Wikicommons. Adapted by New Visions.

2. Most of Japan is **mountainous**, *therefore...*



[Photo of the US Naval Base at the White Beach Port Facility in Okinawa Japan](#) created by James G. McCarter is in the public domain and courtesy of Wikicommons. Adapted by New Visions.

3. As an **archipelago**, Japan has an **irregular coastline**, which creates natural ports and harbors safe for ships to dock in, so...



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4. Japan's neighboring countries are Korea and China. *As a result...*



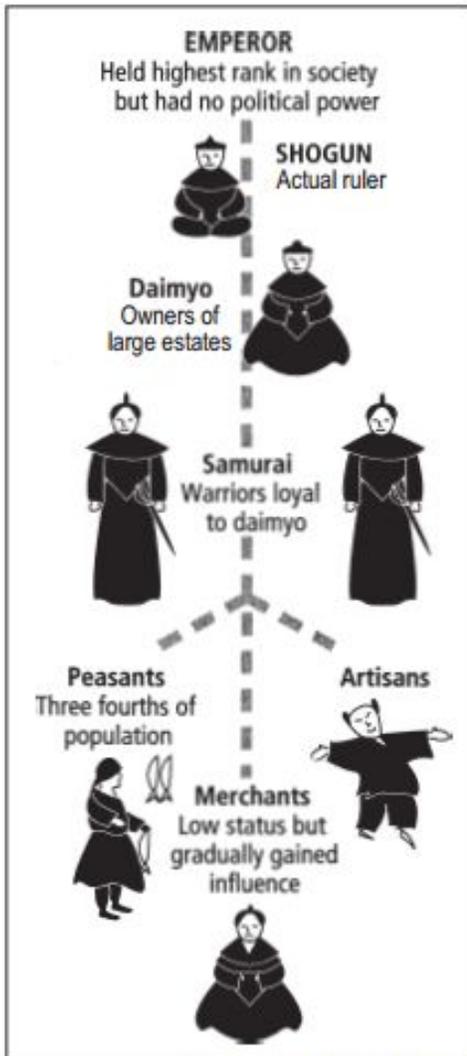
Contextualize

Historical Context: What was a shogunate?

➔ **Directions:** Watch the video [“The Shogunate: History of Japan \(0:00-5:35\)”](#) by The Dragon Historian, examine the image and timeline and read the text below, and then answer the questions that follow.

daimyo (n.)	powerful landowning nobles in Japan who were loyal to the shogun	samurai (n.)	landowning warriors in Japan who were loyal to daimyo
decentralized (adj.)	divided or spread across into different areas or people	shogun (n.)	a military leader in Japan who had absolute power and passed their power down through their family
feudalism (n.)	a decentralized system of power in which land owned by a powerful person is divided up and given to others in exchange for work and a promise to fight for the interests of the land owner	shogunate (n.)	a government ruled by a shogun

Japanese Feudal System



Source: *Guide to the Essentials of World History*. Prentice Hall, 1999 (adapted) from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Exam.

Throughout Japanese history, even today, the head of the ruling government has been an emperor. The emperor is always a member of the Yamato family, but the emperor’s real power in the government was different depending on the time period in Japanese history.

From the late 12th to the late 19th century, Japan was ruled by a series of **shoguns**. **Shoguns** were military leaders in Japan who had absolute power and passed their power down through their families. A government ruled by a shogun was called a **shogunate**. During the period when Japan was ruled by shogunates, there was still an emperor from the Yamato family, but he had little power.

The Shoguns created a hierarchy in Japanese government and society called **feudalism**. **Feudalism** is a **decentralized** system of power in which land owned by a powerful person is divided up and given to others in exchange for work and a promise to fight for the interests of the land owner.

Feudalism existed in Europe during the Middle Ages in which kings divided up their land and gave them to lords to rule in exchange for loyalty to the king and protection if the king needed it. These lords gave land to knights who promised to protect the lords in exchange.

In Japan, the system was similar but the roles had different names. The shogun ruled Japan and the **daimyo** were the wealthy landowners who promised their loyalty to the shogun. The daimyo gave land to **samurai** in exchange for their loyalty and protection. Below the samurai were peasants, merchants, and artisans.

Source: Adapted from information in [“Shogunate.”](#) Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Shogunates in Japanese History

Shogunate
(dates)

Kamakura Shogunate
(1185-1333)

Ashikaga Shogunate
(1333-1573)

Tokugawa Shogunate
(1600-1868)

Founding
Shogun



Minamoto no Yoritomo
[Source](#)

Ashikaga Takauji
[Source](#)

Tokugawa Ieyasu
[Source](#)

Territory
Controlled



Screenshots from [“The Shogunate: History of Japan”](#) by The Dragon Historian, is licensed under Creative Commons: By Attribution 3.0.

For each of the titles for people in the feudal system, identify if a person with that title would support the feudal system in Japan and explain why or why not.

Title	If you had this title, would you support the feudal system in Japan? [Yes, No, Maybe]	Why would you support/not support the feudal system in Japan if you had this title?
Emperor		
Shogun		
Daimyo		
Samurai		
Merchants		

Document 1a

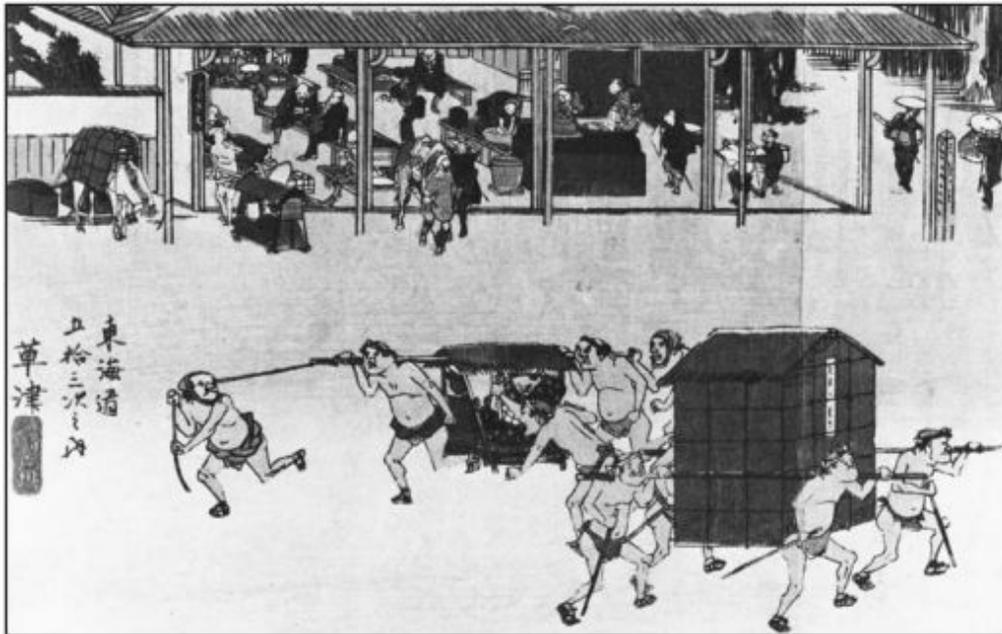
The Tokugawa shogunate realized the importance of maintaining contact with distant provinces within Japan. The Tōkaidō was its most important highway.

...Perhaps the most crucial use of the road was for governmental communication with the provinces. Official messengers traveled by foot, horseback (in wartime), and palanquin [a seat, usually for the wealthy, carried by other people]. The government used a system of relays for messengers, with reliefs at every seven li [3.9 km]. Government messengers had priority over any other type of traveler. They had first access to ferries at river crossings along the way, and could freely pass government road barriers at all times of the day or night. Private citizens were not allowed to travel at night; a series of barriers and checkpoints along the road kept them from doing so....

Source: Patricia J. Graham, "The Political and Economic Importance of the Tōkaidō," *Tōkaidō: Adventures on the Road in Old Japan*, University of Kansas Spencer Museum of Art (adapted) from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Exam, January 2012.

Document 1b

Relay Station: Hōeidō #53



...Here, a man is riding in a "fast palanquin," gripping a strap for fear of falling off. The bearers of these palanquins would change at the relay stations, but the rider transmitting the message would endure the grueling ride until he reached his destination and could transmit his secret message in person.

Source: Patricia J. Graham, "The Political and Economic Importance of the Tōkaidō," *Tōkaidō: Adventures on the Road in Old Japan*, University of Kansas Spencer Museum of Art (adapted) from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Exam, January 2012.

Document 2

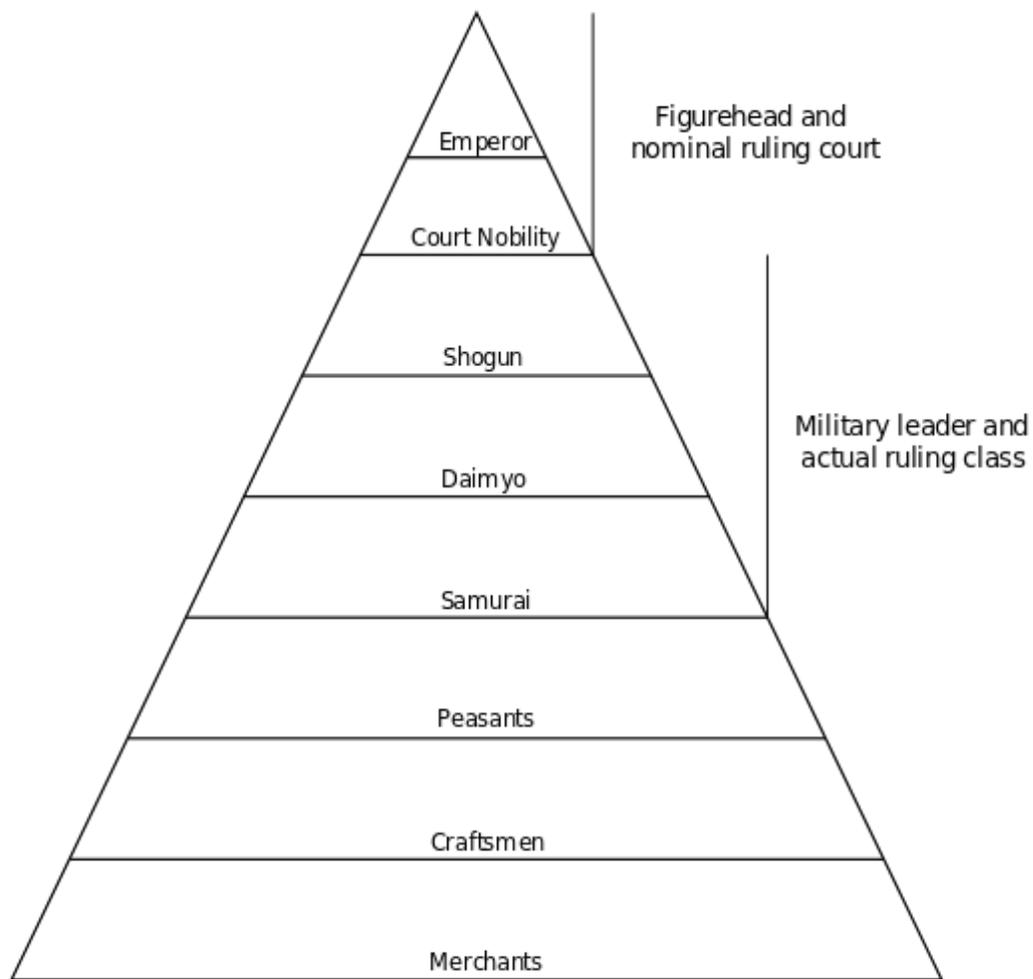
The Edicts of Toyotomi Hideyoshi: *Excerpts from Collection of Swords*

The following excerpts come from a powerful daimyo who ruled before the Tokugawa Shogunate named Toyotomi Hideyoshi. Both Tokugawa Ieyasu and Toyotomi Hideyoshi fought for a previous powerful daimyo who tried to unite Japan named Oda Nobunaga. Though Ieyasu and Hideyoshi competed for power later, Ieyasu continued some of his policies like the one below.

Note to Educators: Use excerpts from [Collection of Swords, 1588](#) on the [Asia for Educators](#) website from Columbia University which New Visions is unable to reproduce here for copyright reasons.

Source: Toyotomi Hideyoshi: *Excerpts from Collection of Swords, 1588* From Japan: A Documentary History: The Dawn of History to the Late Tokugawa Period, edited by David J. Lu (Armonk, New York: M. E. Sharpe, 1997), 191-192. © 2001 M. E. Sharpe. Reproduced with the permission of the publisher. All rights reserved.

Document 3: Representation of Tokugawa Feudalism



Source: [Image](#) created by TheInfernoX is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license and courtesy of Wikicommons.

Document 4: Laws Governing Military Households (1615), Excerpts

By 1603, Tokugawa Ieyasu had won the civil war and had become the supreme ruler of Japan, the Shogun. His successor, Shogun Hidetada, put forth laws for military households. These households included members of the warrior class: the daimyo, the greater samurai, and the lesser samurai.

. . . [4] Great lords (daimyō), the lesser lords, and officials should immediately expel from their domains any among their retainers [vassals] or henchmen who have been charged with treason or murder. . . .

[6] Whenever it is intended to make repairs on a castle of one of the feudal domains, the [shogunate] authorities should be notified. The construction of any new castles is to be halted and stringently [strictly] prohibited. "Big castles are a danger to the state." Walls and moats are the cause of great disorders.

[7] Immediate report should be made of innovations which are being planned or of factional conspiracies [schemes by dissenting groups] being formed in neighboring domains. . . .

Source: Compiled by Ryusaku Tsunoda, et al., *Sources of the Japanese Tradition*, Columbia University Press (adapted) from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Exam, January 2016

Document 5

The sankin kotai or hostage system was included as part of the warrior class laws.

Alternate residence duty, or sankin kotai, was a system developed in the Warring States period and perfected by the Tokugawa shogunate. In essence, the system demanded simply that daimyo reside in the Tokugawa castle at Edo for periods of time, alternating with residence at the daimyo's own castle. When a daimyo was not residing in the Tokugawa castle, he was required to leave his family at his overlord's [shogun's] castle town. It was, at its simplest, a hostage system which required that either the daimyo or his family (including the very important heir) always be physically subject to the whim of the overlord. . . .

Source: "Sankin Kotai and the Hostage System," Nakasendo Way, Walk Japan from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Exam, January 2016

Enduring Issue _____

Which documents support your claim (Choose at least 3) : _____, _____, _____, _____

Document _____ - Explain how it supports your claim _____

Write down evidence from the document that supports your claim and explain _____

Explain other historical information that relates to your enduring issue and can be tied to this information.
