

CHAPTER
12
SECTION 4
Note Taking Study Guide
THE EMERGENCE OF JAPAN AND THE FEUDAL AGE

Focus Question: What internal and external factors shaped Japan's civilization, and what characterized Japan's feudal age?

As you read this section, complete the table below with examples of internal and external factors that shaped Japan's civilization.

Influences on Japan	
Internal Factors	External Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography both protected and isolated Japan. • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____

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Section Summary

THE EMERGENCE OF JAPAN AND THE FEUDAL AGE

READING CHECK

What is bushido?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *stressed* mean in the underlined sentence? When you put *stress* on a syllable, do you say it with more or less emphasis? Use this clue to help you understand what *stressed* means in this sentence.

READING SKILL

Categorize List the levels in Japanese feudal society and give details about each level.

Japan sits on an **archipelago**, or chain of islands. In early times, surrounding seas both protected and isolated Japan. This region has many volcanoes, earthquakes, and tidal waves called **tsunamis**.

Early Japanese society was divided into clans. The clans honored kami, or powers that were natural or divine. The worship of these forces of nature became known as **Shinto**. Missionaries from Korea introduced Buddhism to Japan in the 500s. They also brought knowledge of Chinese culture. In the 600s, Prince Shotoku sent nobles to study in China. The visitors brought back Chinese technology and arts. In 710, the Japanese emperor built a new capital at Nara, modeled after the Chinese capital.

The Japanese kept some Chinese ways but discarded others. This process is known as **selective borrowing**. The Japanese revised the Chinese writing system and added **kana**, symbols representing syllables. From 794 to 1185, Heian was the Japanese capital. Heian women, such as Murasaki Shikibu, produced some of the most important works of Japanese literature.

Japan evolved into a feudal society. Theoretically, the emperor was the head of this society, but really he was powerless. The shogun, or supreme military commander, had the real power. Minamoto Yoritomo was appointed shogun in 1192. He set up the Kamakura shogunate. The shogun distributed land to lords, called daimyo, who agreed to support him with their armies. They, in turn, granted land to lesser warriors called **samurai**. Samurai developed a code of values, known as **bushido**. The code emphasized honor, bravery, and loyalty to one's lord.

Kublai Khan tried to invade Japan in 1274 and 1281, but typhoons wrecked the Mongol ships during both invasions. However, after the attempted invasions, the Kamakura shogunate crumbled. By 1590, Toyotomi Hideyoshi had brought most of Japan under his control. In 1600, Tokugawa Ieyasu defeated his rivals to become master of Japan. The Tokugawa shoguns created an orderly society. With peace restored to the countryside, agriculture improved and trade flourished.

During Japan's feudal age, a Buddhist sect known as **Zen** won widespread acceptance. Zen monks were great scholars, yet they stressed the importance of reaching a moment of "non-knowing."

Review Questions

1. How did the surrounding seas affect Japan's development?

2. How did the shogun gain the support of the daimyo?
