

## The Rise of Feudalism in Japan

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The emperor was an important political and religious figure in Japan. However, by the 1100s, the emperor's power was so weakened that Japan collapsed into civil war. Unable to control the lords of Japan, the emperor lost his political power. A system of feudalism arose in Japan that was similar to feudalism in Western Europe. Lords and their private armies became very powerful.

By 1192, Japan's most powerful lord or noble had the emperor appoint him as Japan's "Supreme Military Governor" or Shogun. For the next 600 years, the Shoguns were the real rulers of Japan, while the emperors acted as mere figureheads. The Shogun stood at the top of the Japanese feudal system. He was the most powerful lord in Japan. The Shogun was a military dictator.

### Questions:

1- What happened to the emperor of Japan in the 1100s?

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2- What arose in Japan in the 1100s?

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3- Who was the Shogun?

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4- Why did the Shogun rule Japan?

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The highest nobles next to the shogun were the daimyos. A daimyo was a noble landowner or a lord. Daimyo controlled large estates, or pieces of land. Daimyo also had private armies or armies of warriors fought for the daimyo. The daimyo gave land to warriors or samurai, which means "one who serves" in exchange for loyalty and protection. Samurai were warriors on horseback and fearless soldiers who carried swords. They believed that to die in battle was an honor. Samurai practiced the Code of Bushido.

The Code of Bushido was the samurai's code of honor. The Code of Bushido demanded that a samurai be loyal to his lord and brave. A samurai had to obey orders and practice self-discipline, or control over one's feelings and actions. Honor was the most important thing in his life. If a samurai lost his honor, he had to commit seppuku or hari-kari. He had to kill himself with his own sword. The Japanese believed that seppuku restored or brought back honor.

### Questions:

5- Define daimyo.

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6- Who were the samurai?

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7- Describe the relationship between a samurai and his daimyo.

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8- What was the Code of Bushido?

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