Please answer the following questions on your own paper & define the vocab words. Label it World cultures 18-2.

Began to learn to read and write under the personal supervision of the Emperor... Everyone was pleased to greet him, and there was already a winning friendliness in his manners, which amused people, and made them like to play with him. We need not refer to his studies in detail, but on musical instruments such as the flute and the zither he also showed great skill.

Murasaki Shikibu, the author of The Tale of Genji, had a favorable position at the Japanese court. She completed her book—the world's first novel—around the year 1008. Although The Tale of Genji is fiction, it reveals much about the elaborate ceremonies and manners of Japanese court life. By the time of Murasaki, the Japanese had successfully blended ideas borrowed from China to enrich their own culture.

Early Japanese Society

Life in early Japan was very different from the elegant world of Murasaki Shikibu. The earliest Japanese society was organized into clans, or groups of families descended from a common ancestor. Each family inherited its position within a clan. Some families were warriors. Others might be farmers, weavers, or potters.

By A.D. 400, several clans formed a union and settled in the district called Yamato. They united much of Japan and even governed a small area of southern Korea. The Tenno clan led the union and claimed to be descended from the sun goddess Amaterasu. Through the goddess, legends relate, the Tenno clan received the three symbols of imperial power: a bronze mirror, an iron sword, and a jeweled necklace. In time, the Tenno set up Japan's first and only ruling dynasty. Japan's present emperor traces his descent to the Tenno clan.

Adapting Chinese Patterns

During the 500s, missionaries from Korea introduced Buddhism and Chinese culture to Japan. They brought Chinese script, which
became Japan's first written language. These early contacts with China's advanced civilization impressed the Japanese. Between 550 and 850, they set out on a course of deliberate cultural borrowing from China.

In 607, Prince Shotoku of the imperial family sent a group of Japanese nobles to China. The young men spent years at the Chinese court, studying government, art, literature, science, and philosophy. They returned home eager to share their new knowledge. In the years that followed, other Japanese visited China.


Peasants learned to use Chinese tools and farming methods and to raise Chinese crops. Japanese potters and weavers modeled their wares on Chinese samples. The Japanese also absorbed Chinese ideas about music, dance, sculpture, and architecture. In the past, Japan moved the capital whenever an emperor died. Under Chinese influence, the emperor built a capital city at Nara, modeled on the Tang capital.

Selective borrowing. Despite the massive borrowing, the Japanese preserved their own identity. After the first enthusiasm for Chinese ideas faded, the Japanese selected the ideas that worked for them. They tried and then discarded the Chinese civil service system. The idea of choosing officials by merit did not fit the Japanese belief that people inherited their position in society.

The Japanese never accepted the idea of the Mandate of Heaven. (See page 329.) Unlike the Chinese, the Japanese did not change dynasties. To them, the emperor was a divine figure, descended from the sun goddess. The Japanese accepted Buddhism, but they kept their traditional beliefs as well.

Heian Court

In 794, the emperor moved his court to Heian, present-day Kyoto. At Heian, the Japanese showed their genius for creative adaptation. There, they blended Chinese and Japanese ideas, creating a rich new culture.
A system of writing. A major achievement of this new culture was the development of a Japanese system of writing. Chinese script was not well suited to spoken Japanese. In time, the Japanese developed kana, a set of written symbols that represent syllables. Although educated Japanese men continued to use Chinese writing, women like Murasaki Shikibu adopted the new system.

Powerful families. Although the emperor ruled over a brilliant court at Heian, his power over the country was declining. By the 800s, great court families controlled Japan. They divided the land into private estates, which they assigned to local strongmen. Peasants worked the land on these estates. Slowly, a single family, the Fujiwara (foo jee wii rah), gained great land wealth and concentrated power in their own hands.

For 200 years, the Fujiwara ruled Japan. The emperor became a figurehead. He carried out religious duties but had no real power. The Fujiwara strengthened their position by marrying their daughters to the heirs to the throne. Other noble families occupied government positions, which they tried to make hereditary. They also devoted themselves to the hundreds of ceremonies and festivals that regulated court life. (See World Literature, “The Pillow Book,” by Sei Shonagon, page 430.)

Japanese Feudalism

During the 1100s, turmoil rocked Japan. Strong warrior families on the frontier challenged the power of the Heian court. These samurai, or warrior knights, waged fierce battles for control of the land. Out of the struggles emerged a new system of government known as feudalism. Under feudalism, local lords ruled the land, but they were bound to higher lords and to the emperor by ties of loyalty. This pattern was similar in some ways to European feudalism. (See Chapter 29.)

Feudal society. By 1192, Minamoto Yoritomo* had emerged as the strongest military figure in Japan. The emperor gave him the title shogun, or chief general of the army. Under Minamoto and his successors, a feudal class system emerged.

* Traditionall in Japan, family names precede given names.
The emperor stood at the head of feudal society, but he remained a figurehead. The shogun, who was the most powerful samurai, exercised more power. Like other great samurai, the shogun controlled land and the people living on it. Moreover, the shogun commanded an army composed of samurai of lesser rank.

Samurai of all ranks formed a small class of noble warriors that dominated feudal society. Below them were commoners including peasants, artisans, and merchants. Peasants worked the land for the great samurai, providing wealth to support the nobility. Sometimes, peasants served as foot soldiers.

Frequent warfare. In theory, the shogun commanded the complete loyalty of his lords. In practice, these samurai lords and their followers battled for power with the shogun and with one another. At times, the shogunate passed from one military family to another. By the 1400s, Japan was in a constant state of war.

**Achieving Unity**

During the 1500s, several strong military leaders pushed to reunite Japan. The most successful was an able general, Toyotomi Hideyoshi (hee day yoon shee). By 1590, he had converted his rivals into his subordinates and brought all of Japan under his control. He then invaded Korea, hoping in time to conquer China. Although Hideyoshi failed in these goals, he did build the foundations for a united Japan.

**Centralized feudalism.** In 1600, Hideyoshi’s successor, Tokugawa Ieyasu (toh kuh GAH way ee YAY yah soo), claimed the title of shogun. He set up the Tokugawa shogunate, which lasted until 1868. During that time, the shoguns created a peaceful, orderly society under a system of centralized feudalism.

The Tokugawa shoguns left feudal classes in place, but they brought the great samurai, now called daimyo (dah myoh), under their control. The shogun required the daimyo to spend every other year in Edo, present-day Tokyo. To guarantee their good behavior, the daimyo had to leave their wives and children in Edo as permanent hostages. Meanwhile, the emperor remained a powerless figurehead ruler at his palace.

**Economic and social changes.** The new system of centralized feudalism brought unexpected changes. Edo grew from a small fishing village into a bustling city. Roads improved as the daimyo and their servants traveled back and forth between Edo and their estates in the country.

More peaceful conditions led to increased trade and travel on rivers or roads. Cities and towns sprang up by harbors and along the roads to provide goods and services to travelers. The growth of cities created new markets. During this period of expansion, a money economy developed. Some merchants became rich through trade. Many set up banks to lend money at interest.

The daimyo and their samurai followers had to adapt to the changing conditions. Under the Tokugawas, this military class no longer spent its time fighting as it had in the past. Some samurai became government officials. Others managed the estates of the daimyo or shogun. As Japanese society changed, education became more widespread. The children of wealthy merchants, as well as those of samurai, began to attend school.

By the early 1800s, Japan had become a unified nation in many ways. In addition, the expansion of trade created economic links within Japan.

**An Isolated Nation**

These changes occurred during a remarkable period of isolation. Early on, the Tokugawas felt threatened by the growing number of westerners who were arriving in Japan. The Portuguese had reached Japan in 1543, Spanish, Dutch, and English traders soon followed. An active trade arose—Chinese silk and European firearms, textiles, and glassware for Japanese copper and silver.

Along with traders came Catholic missionaries. Their success in winning converts in
gered the shogun. He did not want Japanese Christians to pledge loyalty to a foreign ruler—the pope. The shogun’s hostility to Catholic countries increased when he heard about the Spanish conquest of the Philippines. He acted to protect Japan from a similar fate.

During the early 1600s, the government began persecuting foreign missionaries and Japanese Christians. This anti-Christian drive grew into a general expulsion of foreigners. In 1639, the shogun closed Japan to the world. Foreigners were forbidden to enter the country. Any Japanese who left the islands could not return. The government even outlawed the building of oceangoing vessels.

The isolation was not complete, however. The government did permit a few contacts with Korea and China. The Dutch, too, were allowed to keep a tiny trading post at Nagasaki. Two ships a year could unload their goods there.

Like Korea, Japan enforced its policy of isolation for 200 years. By the mid-1800s, however, the United States and the industrialized nations of Europe had begun to pressure Japan to open its ports to the world.

SECTION 2 REVIEW

1. Identify: (a) Tenno, (b) Prince Shotoku, (c) Heian, (d) kana, (e) Fujiwara, (f) Minamoto Yoritomo, (g) Hideyoshi, (h) Tokugawa Ieyasu.

2. Define: (a) samurai, (b) feudalism, (c) shogun, (d) daimyo.

3. (a) List three ways in which Chinese culture influenced Japan. (b) Give one example of how the Japanese adapted Chinese culture to their own traditions.


5. How did the Tokugawa shoguns isolate Japan?

6. Understanding Causes and Effects (a) Why did the Tokugawa shoguns create the system of centralized feudalism? (b) How did this system produce economic and social changes?

7. Writing Across Cultures Like Japan, the United States has borrowed ideas from other cultures. List four examples of American cultural borrowing. Describe how each idea or item has been adapted to American use.
Japanese leaders were expecting the foreigners. In 1853, four American warships anchored in Tokyo Bay. The American commander demanded that Japan open its ports to trade. Some Japanese favored upholding strict isolation. Others, like Lord Koro, urged that Japan learn from the foreigners:

"The condition of foreign states is not what it once was; they have invented the steamship and introduced radical changes in the art of navigation. They have also built up their armies...and risen to be formidable powers. If, therefore, we persistently cling to our outdated systems, heaven only knows what disaster may befall our Empire."

Under outside pressure, Japan finally ended 200 years of isolation. To defend itself against the foreigners, Japan chose to modernize by adapting western technology. As they had done over 1,000 years before (see page 394), the Japanese went abroad with the aim of borrowing from other cultures.

**An End to Isolation**

By the mid-1800s, western nations were competing to expand trade in Asia. In 1853, the United States sent a fleet commanded by
Commodore Matthew Perry. Perry's goal was to force Japan to end its policy of isolation.

Unequal treaties. The Japanese realized that their weapons were no match for Perry's cannons and steam-powered warships. In 1854, the shogun signed the Treaty of Kanagawa with the United States. It granted American ships the right to stop at two Japanese ports for supplies. It also gave the United States the right to send a diplomatic representative to Japan.

Before long, the United States and other western nations won additional rights. Like China, Japan had to sign "unequal treaties." Under these agreements, Japan had to give foreigners extensive trading rights as well as the right of extraterritoriality. (See page 345.) Many Japanese were angry that their leaders had signed these treaties.

Growing unrest. Even before Perry's arrival, people of all classes had become unhappy with Tokugawa rule. Wealthy merchants resented the strict laws that kept them in a lowly social position. At the same time, the growing money economy hurt the samurai class. To get more money, many samurai increased the taxes their peasants had to pay. High taxes only added to the general discontent.

Reform-minded samurai looked to the emperor at Kyoto as a symbol of a new order. They urged him to take his rightful place as Japan's ruler. In this atmosphere, feelings against foreigners and the shogun grew. Reformers took up the battle cry, "Honor the emperor and expel the barbarians."

Meiji restoration. In 1868, rebels forced the shogun to step down. They then restored the emperor to power. The 15-year-old emperor moved from Kyoto, the old imperial capital, to Tokyo, where the shogun had ruled. He called his reign Meiji (may jee), meaning "enlightened rule."

Under the Meiji restoration, samurai reformers set Japan on a new course. They realized that Japan had to modernize before it could "expel the barbarians." Their new motto became, "Enrich the country, strengthen the military." Meiji reformers then sent hundreds of Japanese to Europe and the United States to study western government, industry, and military organization.
Notes on the president. In 1860, the president of the United States, James Buchanan, received the samurai diplomats on their first visit to the West. The Japanese noted that he wore a simple black costume of coat and trousers in the same fashion as any merchant and had no decoration or sword on him.

Some of the visitors approved of this informality. At the same time, they were amazed by the Americans’ lack of respect for their founders. One young scholar, Fukuzawa Yukichi, noted:

“One day, on a sudden thought, I asked a gentleman where the descendants of George Washington might be. He replied, ‘I think there is a woman who is directly descended from Washington. I don’t know where she is now, but I think I have heard she is married.’ His answer was so very casual that it shocked me.”

Manners and customs. American social customs both bewildered and amused the visitors. At a hotel, they noticed that the floor was covered with “valuable carpets and rugs, which in Japan only the wealthy could buy.” Yet Americans walked on this valuable carpet without removing their shoes! The Japanese also attended dances, where “the ladies and gentlemen seemed to be hopping about the room together.” The visitors could barely keep from laughing at the hilarious sight, but they did not wish to appear rude.

Studying industry. Of course, a major purpose of the visit was to observe modern industry. At factories, the Japanese watched in awe as steam-powered machines cranked out goods. “The introduction of such machinery into our country,” wrote a young Japanese, “would contribute greatly to the enhancement of our national interests.”

Fukuzawa admired much of what he saw, but he was shocked at the enormous waste of iron:

“In garbage piles, on the seashores—everywhere—I found lying old oil tins, empty cans, and broken tools.

This was remarkable to us, for in Edo, after a fire, there would be hundreds of poor people swarming in the ruined district, looking for nails in the charred wood, so valuable was metal in Japan.”

Although they appreciated many American achievements, the Japanese ambassador himself noted that Americans lacked etiquette. “We had not entirely been wrong to call them western barbarians,” he wrote. Still, he added, “I would forgive their impoliteness because of their friendliness.”

Departing for the West. This Japanese trade mission, shown here leaving Yokohama in 1871, spent nearly two years in Britain. A member of this mission described London in these words: “Black smoke rises to the sky from every possible kind of factory... This is a sufficient explanation of England’s wealth and strength.”

Choice: Why did the Meiji government send missions abroad to study western ways?
Government Under the Meiji

Meiji leaders wanted to create a strong central government. They convinced the feudal lords to give up their power and return their lands to the state. In exchange, the daimyo received high positions in government.

The reformers wrote a constitution, which the emperor presented to the people in 1889. The constitution adapted western ideas to Japanese needs. It preserved the idea of imperial rule, however, and gave the emperor great power. At the same time, the constitution set up a two-house Diet, or parliament, modeled on the German system. The Diet had limited power, however.

Other reforms included a court and legal system that was based on European ideas. New laws abolished torture and set out rules regarding evidence and court procedures. The government also organized departments, such as ministries of education, finance, and the military. These departments undertook ambitious policies to increase education, set up a new tax system, and strengthen the military.

The new government was not intended to bring democracy to Japan. Its goal was to unite Japan and make it the equal of western powers.

Economic Modernization

While strengthening the government, the Meiji reformers also worked to modernize Japan’s economy. They realized that Japan could compete with western powers only by industrializing.

To learn new technologies, Japanese students visited factories and shipyards in the West. Japan also invited foreign engineers and other experts to teach its people how to build railroads and make machines such as steam engines, but modernized systems.

Need for foreign technology boost. Despite most of the silk price, the silk industry was in their profit, after the silk remanufacturing.

The government sold some lumber and other products to foreign countries to support modernization.

The Zaibatsu, the new family of modern business companies, such as Mitsubishi, became the leaders of the economic growth.

The Meiji period modernization also reinforced the feudal system. The government also required all samurai to do business in Japan and began to

Mitsui Bank in Tokyo

After the Meiji restoration, the Mitsui family received permission to establish Japan’s first private bank. Out of this main building in Tokyo, it operated 30 branches. This bank became the cornerstone of Mitsui, one of the most powerful companies in Japan. Change: Why did Japan need to develop a modern banking system in order to build an industrial economy?
steam engines. The government improved ports, built weapons factories, and set up modern transportation and communications systems.

Need for capital. To raise money, the government continued to tax peasants and borrow from merchants. In addition, a natural disaster gave the economy an unexpected boost. During the 1860s, disease destroyed most of the silkworms in Europe. As a result, silk prices soared, and the Japanese silk industry boomed. Japanese silk makers used their profits to mechanize silk factories. Even after the European silk industry recovered, silk remained Japan’s leading export.

The government aided industrial growth by building and equipping many factories and mills. To raise money for more reforms, it later sold these plants to private owners. While some business leaders were commoners, the most influential leaders came from former samurai families.

Zaibatsu. With government help, powerful families used traditional ties of loyalty and modern business methods to build huge companies. These large family organizations became known as zaibatsu (za baht soo). By the late 1800s, zaibatsu controlled large parts of the economy.

The government encouraged cooperation rather than competition among companies. For example, Mitsubishi, a successful shipping company, merged with Mitsui in 1885. The giant new company that resulted could now compete with western shipping interests.

Social Changes

The Meiji reformers believed that modernization should include social changes. They abolished feudal classes and made everyone equal before the law. Samurai were forbidden to wear swords, a traditional symbol of their special privileges. Other laws required all men, rather than just the sons of samurai, to serve in the military.

Industrialization brought many changes to Japan. Millions of people moved from rural farms to take jobs in the cities. Many women began to work outside their homes, earning money in factories. By the early 1900s, almost half of all factory workers were women.

The government required all children to attend elementary school. Some went on to high school and college. As literacy increased, so did the number of newspapers and magazines. The press gained influence in shaping public opinion. New political parties were formed, and Japan took steps toward making its government more democratic. In the late 1800s, less than 4 percent of adults had the right to vote. By 1925, all Japanese men had that right. (Women did not win the right to vote until 1947.)

Japanese Expansion in Asia

By 1900, Japan had become a modern industrial nation. In a short time, it had rapidly absorbed western technology and built a well-governed society. Japan’s rapid success was due in part to its strong sense of national unity and its tradition of self-sacrifice and hard work. These changes enabled Japan to negotiate new agreements with western nations, replacing the “unequal treaties” of the past.

Rivalry over Korea. Following the example of western nations, Japan set out to gain an overseas empire. It competed with China and Russia for influence in Korea. In 1895, Japan defeated China in a war and forced the Chinese to give up their claims to Korea. Japan also gained Taiwan, known as Formosa, and won the same special privileges in China that western nations enjoyed.

In 1904–05, Japan fought Russia in the Russo-Japanese War. The Japanese victory stunned western nations. For the first time in modern history, an Asian nation had defeated a major European power. The treaty ending the war forced Russia to leave Korea and gave Japan a foothold in Manchuria.

Benefits of expansion. By expanding, Japan sought equal political standing with western powers. It also gained scarce raw materials for its industries. These included coal and iron from China. During World War I, Japan took over Germany’s holdings in northern China, setting the stage for further expansion.
Growth of Extreme Nationalism

During the 1920s, Japan benefited from years of peace and prosperity. Business leaders favored strengthening Japan by peaceful means rather than by military expansion. As a result, Japan backed international efforts to ensure world peace. It signed agreements with the United States and Britain to limit the size of their navies. Japan also reduced the size of its army.

Effects of depression. In 1929, the Great Depression began in the United States and spread around the world. Japan was also hit by this worldwide economic slowdown. Japan's prosperity depended heavily on trade, but the depression forced other countries to cut back on imports. In addition, many countries raised tariffs on imports to protect their own industries. Between 1929 and 1931, the value of Japanese exports fell by 50 percent. As Japan's trade declined, factories closed and unemployment rose.

The government's failure to solve the crisis led to domestic unrest. As elsewhere, extremist groups attracted large followings. In Japan, extreme nationalists argued that Japan should not have stopped its overseas expansion. They pointed out that western powers had grabbed a large part of the world. They also bitterly criticized the exclusion of Japanese immigrants by nations such as Australia and the United States.

Military dictatorship. Backed by extreme nationalists, military leaders, who had held a respected place in Japanese society since the days of the samurai, gained more power. In 1931, a group of army officers created a crisis in Manchuria, a province of China. They then used the crisis as an excuse to seize the entire region. Most Japanese approved of the conquest of Manchuria. When the prime minister opposed the move, he was assassinated.

During the 1930s, Japan gradually became a military dictatorship. The new leaders promoted militarism, the glorification of the military and a readiness for war. Military officers revived samurai traditions and emphasized loyalty to the emperor, Hirohito. They encouraged people to believe that Japan had a special mission in the world—to free Asian nations from western imperialism.

The War in the Pacific

During the 1930s, the military continued to expand into China. Some Japanese felt this expansion was necessary to protect Manchuria against the Chinese, who wanted to regain control of the region. The Japanese argued that they had won Manchuria in the same way that westerners had gained their colonies. They looked on China as both a source of raw materials and a market for Japanese goods. In 1937, the Japanese launched a major drive into China, forcing Chinese armies to retreat.

World War II begins. While Japan was conquering China, aggressive actions by Germany and Italy plunged Europe into World War II. In 1940, Japan joined an alliance, known as the Axis, with Germany and Italy. The opponents of the Axis, which included Britain, France, and the Soviet Union, were known as the Allies. As German armies overran France, Japanese forces seized the French colony of Indochina.

The United States responded to this latest Japanese expansion by cutting off oil and other supplies that were vital to Japan's military-industrial complex. Japanese diplomats then negotiated with the United States to avoid war. At the same time, the Japanese military was preparing for war. It planned a surprise attack to destroy the American fleet in the Pacific.

War against the United States. On December 7, 1941, Japanese planes bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the chief American naval base in the Pacific. The surprise attack destroyed or badly damaged eight battleships and killed more than 2,500 Americans.

The Japanese followed up this attack by conquering Hong Kong and much of Southeast Asia, including the Dutch East Indies, Burma, and the Philippines. The conquest gave Japan vital sources of raw materials, including rubber, oil, and tin. By 1942, Japan ruled a vast empire stretching from Southeast Asia across the western Pacific.
After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States joined the Allies. Allied forces rallied to slow the Japanese advance. By mid-1942, they had begun to turn the tide. In bitterly fought battles, the Americans forced the Japanese to retreat from one Pacific island after another.

From island bases in the Pacific, the United States began bombing Japan's cities. At the same time, American submarines destroyed Japanese ships carrying supplies to Japan from Southeast Asia and China. By early 1945, the Japanese economy had collapsed.

Defeat. After the defeat of Germany and Italy in Europe, the Allies called on Japan to surrender. Japan's military leaders refused. The United States then decided to use a deadly new weapon against Japan—the atomic bomb. On August 6, 1945, an American bomber dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. The single bomb killed more than 80,000 people and leveled 4 square miles (10 sq
km) of the city. Hiroko Nakamoto, who was 15 years old at the time, recalled the bombing of her city:

“\[\text{In one quick second, my world was destroyed. \ldots}\]

Suddenly, from nowhere, came a blinding flash. It was as if someone had taken a flashbulb picture a few inches from my eyes. There was no pain then. Only a stinging sensation, as if I had been slapped hard in the face. I tried to open my eyes. But I could not. \ldots

I saw dead bodies all about me. The buildings were in ruins, and from the ruins I could hear people crying for help. But I could not help them. Some people were trying, as I was, to walk, to get away, to find their homes. I passed a streetcar that was stalled. It was filled with dead people. ‘’

In spite of the bombing of Hiroshima, the Japanese military government refused to surrender. Three days later, American planes dropped a bomb on Nagasaki, which killed more than 40,000 people. Finally, on August

14, Japan surrendered. For the first time in its history, Japan was occupied by a foreign power.

**SECTION 4 REVIEW**

1. **Locate:** (a) Manchuria, (b) Hiroshima, (c) Nagasaki.
2. **Identify:** (a) Treaty of Kanagawa, (b) Meiji, (c) Pearl Harbor.
3. **Define:** (a) zaibatsu, (b) militarism.
4. (a) Why did Japan decide to modernize?
   (b) What steps did it take to achieve this goal?
5. Why did Japan want an overseas empire?
6. What events led Japan into war with the United States?
7. **Understanding Causes and Effects**
   Describe economic factors that led to Japanese expansion and extreme nationalism.
8. **Writing Across Cultures**
   President Harry Truman said he decided to drop the atomic bomb on Japan in order to end the war and “shorten the agony of young Americans.” Write a speech in which you either defend or criticize the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.