

Timeline Challenge

Japan During Medieval Times

552

Buddhism Reaches Japan

Buddhism spreads to Japan when a Korean king sends a statue of the Buddha to Japan along with a recommendation for a new religion.



710

New Capital for Japan

Japan's government builds a new capital city called Nara. It is modeled after China's capital, Chang'an.



By 900

New Style of Writing

The Japanese invent *kana*, a style of writing that uses simplified Chinese characters to stand for syllables.



About 1010

Tale of Genji Completed

Murasaki Shikibu finishes writing the *Tale of Genji*, considered to be the world's first novel.



1185

Minamoto Yoritomo Comes to Power

Minamoto Yoritomo, head of a military family, seizes control and sets up a military government in Japan.



500

700

900

1100

1300

1500

1700

1900



593

Prince Shotoku's Rule Begins

By encouraging an interest in Korean and Chinese cultures, Prince Shotoku helps create a unique Japanese culture of blended ideas.



794–1185

Heian Period

The Heian period, also called Japan's golden age, ushers in a great flourishing of culture led by Japan's aristocrats.



995–1028

Fujiwara Michinaga Rules

Fujiwara Michinaga, the most successful of the Fujiwara rulers, leads Japan peacefully, despite never having an official government role.



1180

Civil War in Japan

As the power of local feudal lords grows and the imperial government weakens, civil war erupts, clans struggle for power, and local rulers fight to control land.



1192–1867

Feudalism in Japan

A lord-vassal system of shoguns, daimyos, and samurai dominates Japan. A warrior code known as *Bushido* develops.



1603–1867

Samurai Culture

Samurai culture flourishes under the Tokugawa shogunate, which begins with the reign of Tokugawa Ieyasu.