# East Asia

Name:

Date:

## Step 1: Identify at least one significant bit of Japanese history for each of the five Japanese periods.

1. Heian
   1. • The Heian Period was known for the flourishing of court culture and the creation of literary classics like The Tale of Genji by Murasaki Shikibu.
2. Kamakura
   1. The Kamakura Period marked the rise of the samurai class and the establishment of the first shogunate under Minamoto no Yoritomo.
3. Ashikaga
   1. During the Ashikaga Period, the Ashikaga shogunate struggled with power but oversaw the cultural renaissance of the Muromachi era, including the development of Zen-inspired art.
4. Azuchi-Momoya
   1. This period saw the unification of Japan under leaders like Oda Nobunaga and Toyotomi Hideyoshi and the construction of grand castles like Azuchi Castle.
5. Tokugawa
   1. The Tokugawa Period was characterized by peace, isolationist policies, and the flourishing of urban culture, including kabuki theater and ukiyo-e woodblock prints.

## Step 2: Choose ONE option:

**Option 1—Make a personal mnemonic!** A mnemonic is simply a tool to help you remember something. It can be a haiku poem or just a rhyming song, a drawing with key words, or a short fantastical story—anything you can think of making that will help you remember the important parts of Japan's major historical eras. You can make more than one. Don't overthink it!

Now, for your teacher to be able to grade it, you will need to explain your mnemonic. This is more important if you do something really creative, but your teacher must be able to see in your work at least one piece of important historical information for each period and how your creation will help you remember it.

Mnemonic: A Rhyming Song

"Heian courts with poems so grand,

Samurai rise, shoguns take command.

Ashikaga art, tea’s delicate hand,

Castles rise in Momoyama’s land.

Tokugawa peace, closed off from strand."

Explanation:

Heian: "Heian courts with poems so grand" refers to the vibrant court life and creation of classical literature like The Tale of Genji.

Kamakura: "Samurai rise, shoguns take command" reflects the emergence of the samurai class and the establishment of the first shogunate.

Ashikaga: "Ashikaga art, tea’s delicate hand" highlights the cultural achievements, like Zen-inspired art and the tea ceremony.

Azuchi-Momoyama: "Castles rise in Momoyama’s land" signifies the grand castles and unification efforts of this period.

Tokugawa: "Tokugawa peace, closed off from strand" reflects the peaceful Edo Period and Japan's isolationist policies.

This rhyme is easy to memorize and includes a key cultural or historical point for each era.