

ESSAY OBJECTIVE TEST 1

1. According to the old myth, all emperors of Japan are related to the gods.
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. What treasures were handed down to Jimmu by the gods?
 - a. mirror, sword, jewel
 - b. knife, samurai, jade
 - c. scepter, crown, robe
3. What is the name of the light-skinned, hairy people who lived in the north?
 - a. Mongols
 - b. Ainu
 - c. Koreans
4. Who was the first emperor of Japan?
 - a. Hirohito
 - b. Jimmu
 - c. Confucius
5. The gods formed Japan, according to the myth, by stirring a jeweled spear in the ocean and lifting it out. Islands formed where water drops fell from the spear.
 - a. True
 - b. False
6. In approximately what year did Jimmu unify Japan?
 - a. 660 BC
 - b. 660
 - c. 1660

Questions

Background Essay 1: Jimmu

THE CREATION A mythical story is told about the beginning of the islands known as Japan. Long ago the islands of Japan did not even exist, only ocean. A god and goddess looked down from the heavens upon the beautiful ocean and saw a long and colorful rainbow streaking over the ocean. The rainbow formed a splendid bridge and the god and goddess decided to walk across it. Pausing in the center of this stretch of color, the god lowered his jeweled spear into the ocean. He swirled the spear around and around and lifted it from the water. Tiny water drops fell from the tip of the spear, and as they hit the ocean they turned into land. This became the country known as Japan.

THE FIRST EMPEROR The god and goddess descended to their newly created land where the goddess gave birth to Amaterasu, the goddess of the sun and the first ruler of this land. The great-great grandson of Amaterasu is thought to be the great Jimmu, founder of Japan's imperial family. Every emperor of Japan, from Jimmu's time to present day, have been directly related to Jimmu and, therefore, a descendant of the gods.

THREE TREASURES Jimmu carried with him the proof he needed to verify his divine ancestry. Three treasures, handed down by the gods, were always to be kept in possession of Japan's emperors. The first was a mirror that belonged to the sun goddess, representing the emperor's relation to the gods. The next treasure was a special sword, representing the emperor's strength. The third treasure was a jewel, said to actually have been taken from the steps of heaven, representing the great wisdom the emperor possesses. With such powerful and convincing evidence, no one could ever doubt that Japan's emperors were truly related to the gods.

BATTLES WITH AINU Jimmu gained control of Japan about 660 BC. He successfully battled against a different race of people who originally inhabited Japan called the Ainu (pronounced I Knew). These people looked different than the present-day Japanese people. They were tall, white skinned, and many had beards. (A small number of Ainu still live in Japan today, mainly on the northern island of Hokkaido.) Jimmu defeated these people he called the white, hairy, barbarians and drove them primarily to the north, thus becoming emperor and sole ruler of Japan.

A LASTING HERITAGE Jimmu was, most likely, an actual person. The mythical beginnings of Japan is a story still enjoyed by the Japanese, though the actual relation of the emperor to the gods was renounced by the emperor of Japan, Hirohito, after World War II. Emperor Hirohito's heritage can, however, be traced directly back to Jimmu, the first emperor of Japan. Emperor Hirohito died in 1989, and today his son is emperor of Japan.

Background Essay 2: Shotoku

THE YOUNG PRINCE In 572, a boy with exceptional talents was born to a member of the royal family of Japan. He became known as Prince Shotoku. It is said that by the time he was four months old he was already speaking, and shortly after that he could read and write. While still a young boy, he had learned all the scriptures of a religion that had recently been introduced to Japan. As his many great talents developed, people looked to him for guidance and leadership.

BUDDHISM The new religion that interested the prince was Buddhism. Although it was new to Japan, it had originated in India more than 1,000 years earlier. The religion was started by a member of a royal family of India who became known as the Buddha. His teachings gradually spread through China and into Korea. Then, as a gift to the Japanese, the Korean leader sent the Buddhist scriptures and a gold and copper image of the Buddha to the royal family. Prince Shotoku was very impressed with the teachings of the Buddha, and he sought to spread the religion throughout the country.

SHINTO The Japanese religion of Shinto had existed throughout the country from the early times of Jimmu. The belief that spirits existed in all things, living or not, was part of the religion. Building a shrine, or leaving offerings for these spirits could help one in fishing, farming, or warfare. When the new religion of Buddhism was introduced into Japan, it was found to be compatible with the existing Shinto religion. The Japanese people happily could still practice their ancient Shinto and adopt the Buddhist religion that Prince Shotoku so admired.

BUDDHISM SPREADS Prince Shotoku set about erecting temples and statues to the new religion. One great complex of temples was said to hold something quite special. The story was told that when the prince was only a year old, while praying, the left eyeball of the Buddha appeared in his hands. Later, that eyeball was placed at the temples. Soon the scriptures of Buddhism spread across Japan. Monasteries were constructed where people could devote their lives to studying the religion.

STATESMAN The prince became more than just a religious leader. He also had talents as a great statesman. His aunt was the empress when the prince was growing up. When Shotoku was 21 years old, she made him her regent, giving Shotoku her full confidence and total control over the government. The prince brought many teachers to Japan from Korea and China. He awarded teachers high social ranks in order to attract experts in astronomy, calendars, geography, medicine, and the sciences. The country awoke from the dark ages with this wealth of new information.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS The prince introduced the Chinese style of centralized government. But he based his government on virtues of sincerity, love, and goodness, and he used Buddhism as a peaceful, unifying, religious force. Prince Shotoku wrote a code of law in his own hand using principles of philosophy learned from the Chinese. It provided guidelines of moral conduct for statesmen to follow, providing for an amazing degree of justice for such early times. He created a lasting peace from a civilization used to continuous warfare. Prince Shotoku commanded such great confidence in the people of his country that there was very little resistance to his many changes he introduced to produce an age of enlightenment for Japan. The nation was saddened at his death from illness in 622.

CHINESE INFLUENCE For the next century, the Japanese continued to be fascinated with the much older Chinese culture. A type of university for Japanese royalty and friends was created. Chinese speech and writing was taught, and soon Chinese character writing was the preferred form of communication, often written in the form of poetry. The Japanese emperors and empresses became more impressed with the grand scale that Chinese royalty enjoyed. It was said that when the Chinese emperor built a capital, 2,000,000 men were set to work, and that his fleet of pleasure boats on the Yellow River was towed by 80,000 men. When he traveled on land, his caravan was 300 miles long. The Japanese royalty sought to live in a similar way. Rich art in the form of paintings, bronzes, silks, stones, and woods were commissioned from artists taught in the Chinese influence.



WOMEN IN JAPAN Women held an honorable place in early Japanese society. Though not considered an equal to men, women had many freedoms not extended to women of other early societies. Japanese women could be educated, own property, and inherit property. Some of the best books written in early Japan were from female authors writing in traditional Japanese language, not in Chinese as the male authors preferred. The 54-book series, *The Tale of Genji*, written by Lady Murasaki, tells of what life was like as a member of the royal family in early Japan. Women were also known for their bravery. Once a general, while fighting the white, hairy barbarians, was about to be overrun. He had climbed over a stockade to make his getaway when his wife grabbed him and taunted him to stay. Then she gathered the other women together and they all made plucking noises like bow strings. The barbarians, thinking there was a waiting army behind the stockade, decided to withdraw. Later, the general reorganized his troops and led them back to victory.

ESSAY OBJECTIVE TEST 2

1. Which religion began in India and took root in Japan around AD 552?
 - a. Christianity
 - b. Shinto
 - c. Buddhism
 - d. Hinduism

2. This religion was already in Japan when Buddhism arrived:
 - a. Christianity
 - b. Shinto
 - c. Hinduism
 - d. Confucianism

3. The early Japanese people refused to accept Chinese religion writing, and art.
 - a. True
 - b. False

4. The name of the prince who enlightened Japan in the 6th and 7th centuries.
 - a. Jimmu
 - b. Shinto
 - c. Shotoku
 - d. Nagasaki

5. Which language did Japanese men prefer for writing poetry?
 - a. Japanese
 - b. Chinese
 - c. Sign
 - d. Korean

6. In the early times of Prince Shotoku, some Japanese women could get an education, but they were not allowed to own their own property.
 - a. True
 - b. False

Questions

Vocabulary Builder

The Civilizations of Korea and Japan

A. Content Vocabulary

Directions Match the vocabulary words in the left column with their definitions in the right column. Write the letter of the vocabulary word in the space by its definition.

Content Vocabulary	Definitions
a. shamanism	1. _____ person under the protection of a feudal lord
b. archipelago	2. _____ result gained by effort
c. animism	3. _____ an expanse of water with many scattered islands
d. feudalism	4. _____ basic laws that define the role of government
e. Constitution	5. _____ oldest form of poetry
f. samurai	6. _____ military governor who ruled Japan
g. shogun	7. _____ a way to relax and find inner peace
h. vassal	8. _____ belief in spirits that exist separately from bodies
i. sect	9. _____ small group
j. meditation	10. _____ belief that some people can communicate with spirits
k. tanka	11. _____ a group of artisans and merchants
l. achievement	12. _____ the system of service between a lord and those loyal to that lord
m. guild	13. _____ warrior who served a Japanese lord