

# Background Essay 4:

## Kublai Khan

**SAMURAI CODE** The code of the samurai warrior was based on honor, respect, obedience, and total loyalty to those superior. As with Yoshitsune, a younger brother showed honor, respect, and obedience to an older brother, a wife to her husband, children to their father, and samurai warriors to their leaders, with the highest position in Japan being shogun, total military ruler. The emperor, too, shared the very highest level of respect, but his role was as a religious and spiritual leader and as a symbolic figure representing the divine heritage of Japan. Though the emperors lived in splendor, their powers were rarely a threat to the shoguns' power.

**KUBLAI KHAN** About 70 years after the death of Yoritomo, Japan's first shogun, the strength of the samurai code and the bravery of the samurai warriors was tested. Kublai Khan, the cruel and powerful leader in Mongolia, had conquered many lands, maintaining his power through sheer terror. He looked upon Japan as yet another unconquered prize. Stories of the ruthless Khan's destruction of entire villages, killing all men, women, and children, spread such fear that many people felt it safest to simply surrender to the dreaded Mongol army than to fight against it and suffer its wrath. Therefore, when Kublai Khan sent messengers to Japan in 1268, stating that Japan was to surrender to him or face the consequences, the great leader felt that Japan would surely negotiate.

**INVASION PLANS** But the military leaders of Japan were unshaken and sent the messengers back to Mongolia, making it quite clear they would never surrender. This message infuriated Kublai Khan, and he put together his invasion plan that would crush Japan. He formulated a fleet of 800 Korean ships to transport 30,000 Chinese, Korean, and Mongolian soldiers. In 1274 he sent them out to conquer Japan.

**FIRST ATTEMPT** Brave samurai, well trained and eager to fight, met the massive Mongol fleet on the island of Kyushu. The samurai's individual style of combat confused the Mongol's plan of attack and forced them to retreat to their ships after a day of fighting. On the following day, a storm came up and forced the fleet to withdraw to sea to avoid the danger of being smashed against the rocky shore.

**KHAN'S ANGER** When the fleet returned to Korea, Kublai Khan was infuriated at his army's failure. Again the tyrant sent messengers to Japan and demanded surrender or be prepared to pay the price. But this time the Japanese simply put the messengers to death, making it clear that Japan still had no intention of surrender. Kublai Khan had never been madder and vowed to severely punish Japan. He ordered mountains to be stripped of trees to build the largest armada ever assembled on earth, even to this day. More than 3,500 ships were constructed. An army of 140,000 men prepared for what they hoped would be a decisive invasion of Japan.

**SECOND ATTEMPT** The second attack came in 1281. The Japanese had spent the intervening seven years training and preparing for the Mongol army's inevitable return. The brave samurai were anxious and ready to defend their country. Japanese pirate ships menaced the advancing armada. The pirates would quietly swim to the Mongol ships at night. Then, cutting off the heads of the ship's crew members, the pirates would secretly return to their boats leaving the Mongol crafts floundering with inexperienced replacements.

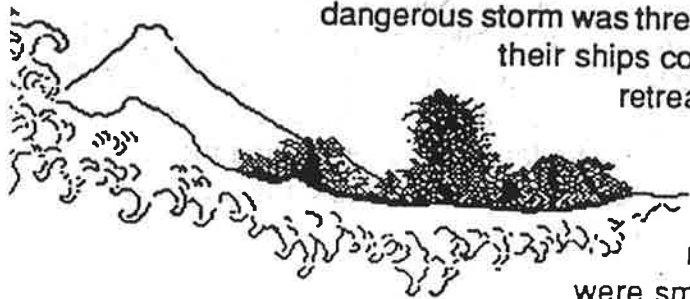
**THE BATTLE** When the Mongol army landed, the massive mixture of Chinese, Korean, and Mongolian soldiers took to the shore again on the island of Kyushu. But the samurai battled bravely to defend their divinely created land. Weeks of furious fighting kept Kublai Khan's forces from establishing a solid foothold on Japanese shores.

**HELPFUL STORM** Then one day, strong winds began to blow. A dangerous storm was threatening, and the Mongol army feared that their ships could be driven against the shore. Troops retreated to the ships. But unlike the storm that had forced an end to the previous invasion, this storm quickly became more violent. Before they could reach the relative safety of the open seas, the ships were smashed and sunk, scattering the Mongol warriors into the angry waters. Most all were drowned. Those that managed to swim to the shore were swiftly chopped into fish food by the awaiting samurai.

**DIVINE WINDS** Thanks to the tremendous storm and the bravery of the samurai, Japan was successfully defended from the most powerful and frightening of invading forces. Kublai Khan's great army was crushed. His resources and morale drained, Kublai Khan made no further attempts to capture Japan. The Japanese were certain the great storm had been sent by the gods to help the samurai defend their sacred land from outsiders. They called the wind "kamikaze" or "divine wind," a term later adapted by World War II fighter pilots. This was still further proof that Japan was not only created by the gods, but was still watched over and protected by the deities. All Japan had much to be proud of. Instead of fighting among themselves, it was a time that Japan fought as a nation, preserving its purity and independence, and remaining unconquered.

#### **Footnote**

In 1982, Japanese divers discovered the remains of the Mongolian armada off the shores of Kyushu. Though the ships had long since disintegrated, many relics were brought up still as they were in 1281.



## ESSAY OBJECTIVE TEST 4

1. Who was the leader of the Mongol invasion?
  - a. Genghis Khan
  - b. Kublai Khan
  - c. Kyoko Khan
  
2. What finally stopped the Mongol army from conquering Japan in 1281?
  - a. Samurai warriors
  - b. Korean pirates
  - c. Typhoon
  
3. How many invasion attempts were made on Japan by Khan's Mongol army?
  - a. None
  - b. One
  - c. Two
  - d. Three
  
4. What does the word "kamikaze" mean?
  - a. Divine wind
  - b. Fierce warrior
  - c. Airplane pilot
  
5. Khan's army was made up of soldiers from which countries?
  - a. Mongolia
  - b. Korea
  - c. China
  - d. All of these
  
6. The Japanese were conquered only once by the Mongols in 1281.
  - a. True
  - b. False

Questions

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Castle \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_

# Japanese Calligraphy Assignment 1

## Introduction to Assignments 1 and 2

Calligraphy, the process of making beautiful letters, is a Japanese art form. Consider these directions and observations while you are working on Japanese calligraphy on both these assignments.

1. Do your calligraphy assignment *patiently* and *carefully*. Work as if you are striving to create fine art.
2. For *quick, sloppy work* you will receive no simulation move.
3. For *good work* you will receive one move.
4. For *beautiful work* you will receive two moves.
5. Use a black felt tip pen to complete both assignments.
6. Japanese write from *right to left* and from *top to bottom*. Therefore, start at \* and work to the left before starting the second letter.
7. First trace over the letter in the fifth box from the left. Try to get a feel for how it has been shaped.
8. Next move to the two boxes with dotted lines and try making the letters there. The dotted lines should help you with sizing and centering.
9. In the final two boxes at the left practice the letter two more times. Your best letter will likely appear in the box at the extreme left.

**Message for Assignment 1:** This is how to write Good afternoon in Japanese. It is pronounced *Ko nee chi wah.*


No. 1

# Background Essay 5:

## Hideyoshi

**PERIOD OF THE WARRING STATES** In the 200 years following the great Japanese victory over Kublai Khan's invading forces, the shoguns of Japan allowed their absolute military power to slip away to the regional generals. When some shoguns lost interest in being military leader and pursued other areas of interest, their generals began fighting among themselves to defend or expand their areas of power and control. The Period of the Warring States, between 1490 and 1600, was a time of much bloodshed, uncertainty, civil fighting, and instability. It was also a time when any regional chieftain with great skill and a little luck could seize power and become shogun of Japan.

**THE RISE OF HIDEYOSHI** One regional leader, Oda Nobunaga, attempted to do just that. Among his officers was a common man, not samurai, named Hideyoshi. A man of great talent, he had become one of Nobunaga's most favored and trusted generals. Many times he had proven his skill on the battlefield. During one battle, he had a river diverted to flood out the defenses of his enemy. His cleverness led him to become a popular general among Nobunaga's troops.

**MUSKETS IN JAPAN** A new discovery came to Japan in 1542 when a trading ship, caught in a storm, washed ashore. Three Portuguese sailors managed to salvage their muskets and gunpowder from the shipwreck. They demonstrated their firearms, much to the astonishment of the Japanese. One observer reported, "Light like lightning was seen and noise like thunder was heard. Bystanders closed their ears with their hands, and flying birds and running beasts fell before them." Hideyoshi quickly understood the importance of using muskets in warfare. Soon he developed battle plans utilizing the new weapons. In one battle, with only 3,000 troops of his own, Hideyoshi defeated an army of 25,000 by using musketeers protected behind movable stockades. The enemy could not fight against the steady gunfire and was forced to retreat. In the following years, Hideyoshi won many battles and conquered much land for Nobunaga.

**NOBUNAGA ASSASSINATED** Although Nobunaga was named deputy shogun by the emperor, the fighting continued. Resistance came from other warlords and even from sects of warrior Buddhist priests who wanted to control trade in their region. Nobunaga eventually defeated most of his enemies, but in 1582 he was assassinated by one of his own men. When Hideyoshi killed the assassin, his power and popularity allowed him to become leader of Nobunaga's army.

**HIDEYOSHI CONQUERS JAPAN** In the following 10 years, Hideyoshi set out to conquer the remainder of Japan. His army of 170,000 soldiers dealt cruelly with those that resisted. One obstacle was a powerful warlord named Ieyasu Tokugawa, who could not be defeated. Hideyoshi agreed to make peace with Tokugawa and assured the deal with an interfamily marriage. Tokugawa was allowed to keep

control of his region. Hideyoshi then severely crushed all other armies and became the absolute military ruler of Japan.

**RULER, BUT NOT SHOGUN** Although Hideyoshi was now the ultimate military ruler of Japan, he could not become shogun because he was a common man and not born samurai. In order to make himself seem more important, he persuaded members of the royal Fujiwara family to adopt him. He told a story that before his birth, his mother saw a brilliant sunlight fill her room, though it was late at night. She then heard a prophecy telling that she would have a son who would lead a glorious life. Hideyoshi kept secret the true facts of his birth. No one was sure of the exact date of his birth or who his father was.

**HIDEYOSHI'S WEALTH** Perhaps to overcome his humble past, Hideyoshi set out to increase his wealth and power to levels greater than any ruler before him. Prospectors were ordered to search for new gold and silver mines. Hideyoshi personally claimed much of the new discoveries of wealth. In one of his homes in Kyoto, everything Hideyoshi touched had to be made of gold. Even the roof was gold. Rooms were filled with bars of gold and silver and bales of fine silk. Hideyoshi also built the largest and strongest fortress ever constructed in Japan, the castle at Osaka. Tens of thousands of workmen were needed to build the 187-acre castle, which Hideyoshi made the center of his government. Double walls, deep moats, and a 100-foot-high tower protected Hideyoshi and his family within.

**HEIR TO POWER** Hideyoshi hoped that his son would become ruler. However, when his son died in 1590, new plans were made. Hideyoshi appointed his nephew to become the next ruler after his death. To everyone's surprise, in 1593, another son was born. Because Hideyoshi preferred his son to inherit the throne, he ordered his nephew to commit suicide, and all the nephew's children killed, which was done. This cleared away any argument of who would succeed Hideyoshi.



**KOREA INVADED** To increase his power further, Hideyoshi's ambition was to conquer China. Using his military skills, he organized a crushing invasion of Korea. Though successful in Korea, his army was unable to advance to China. Disease and a loss of many convoy ships to Korean pirates forced the Japanese armies to return home. A second invasion was launched. Again the Japanese armies quickly conquered Korea. But before any invasion into China could take place, Hideyoshi's generals received word that he had died. The invasion attempt ended; the army returned. Japan had been strengthened and enriched by Hideyoshi's rule. The period of the warring states had ended, but a peaceful future for Japan was left uncertain.

# Background Essay 6: Ieyasu Tokugawa

**HIDEYOSHI'S TRUST IN TOKUGAWA** A few years before Hideyoshi died, he met with his former rival, Ieyasu Tokugawa, on the hills above what is now Tokyo. Hideyoshi slowly and silently drew his sword. But instead of using it to remove the head of Tokugawa, Hideyoshi handed the sword to him, a symbol that Hideyoshi placed great trust in this strong and clever warlord. Plans for the future of Japan were discussed, but one matter especially worried Hideyoshi. His son, who he wanted to be the next military leader of Japan, was only a young boy. In those days when children were sometimes killed to clear a path to power for another, Hideyoshi planned for his son's safety after his eventual death. Hideyoshi asked Tokugawa to be the leader of a five-regent council entrusted to care for the boy and run the government until Hideyoshi's son was old enough to take charge. Although this was like assigning a fox to watch the chickens, Hideyoshi had tremendous trust in Tokugawa's wisdom and abilities.

**RISE TO POWER** When Hideyoshi died in 1592, his son was six years old. The regents took control of the government, but it wasn't long before they were feuding. Two sides emerged, with Tokugawa and his allies going to battle against another regent and his allies. Tokugawa's army won a major battle in 1600, forcing the other regent to flee to the castle at Osaka. With his enemies now contained, Tokugawa requested that the emperor name him shogun of Japan, which was granted in 1603.

**SIEGE OF OSAKA CASTLE** Although he was now the supreme military ruler of Japan, Tokugawa could not rest knowing that his enemy still lived securely in the huge castle at Osaka with Hideyoshi's son and his mother. The castle was built so solidly that it was thought impossible to capture. However, Tokugawa attempted to overrun it with a direct attack and a constant bombardment with his cannons. When this failed, the wise Tokugawa had a better idea. Knowing which part of the castle Hideyoshi's son and his mother lived, Tokugawa ordered his cannons to fire only on that area. The continual barrage of cannonballs frightened the family enough that they eventually surrendered. Tokugawa assured the safety of the family, but took the opportunity to tear down some of the walls while he secretly planned a second attack on the weakened castle. The second attack came in 1615 and brought the death of Hideyoshi's son and those who threatened the supreme power of the Shogun Tokugawa.

**SOCIETY ORGANIZED** During the period that Ieyasu Tokugawa was shogun, a system known as feudalism was used to organize the country. Land was given to daimyos, who were usually family, friends, or loyal generals of the shogun. The daimyos allowed peasants to farm the land, giving the peasants half of what they grew and keeping the rest to increase their own wealth. The richest farmland was a prize awarded to the shogun's most trusted friends. In this system of



feudalism, peasant farmers were loyal to their daimyos, and the daimyos pledged their loyalty and full military support to the shogun.

**THREE CLASSES** All people belonged to a certain class, and their class was not allowed to change. Three major classes existed in feudal Japan. The highest ranking class was royalty, which included the emperor and his family. Second was the military class known as samurai. Shogun was the highest military rank, daimyos below him, and foot soldiers below the daimyos. The third class of people were the commoners, or peasants. Even they had a social ranking. Farmers and artisans were the highest ranked common people, merchants ranked below them, and eta, or bone pickers, were the lowest social level. Into whatever level a person was born, that was generally where he remained for life.



**ENTERTAINMENT** During the Ieyasu Tokugawa period, a favorite form of entertainment was to attend a play. Two types of plays existed. One style was known as No. It was entertainment specifically for royalty and the highest ranking military families. No actors wore wooden masks. Because the actors could not change facial expressions, their costumes and body movements were important in telling the stories, usually of gods and military heroes. A second, livelier form of theater, developed to entertain the common people. Known as Kabuki, these plays contained more action, music, and generally were more fun to watch. Since women were forbidden to be Kabuki actors, men played the roles of women, adding to the humor of the event. Colorful costumes and exciting stories made Kabuki a popular form of entertainment.

**TOKUGAWA'S POWERFUL SHOGUNATE** Although Tokugawa possessed wealth beyond imagination, he did not share the same fascination with gold and silver as did Hideyoshi. Total power and control were the main interests of Tokugawa. Keeping the peasants at poverty level kept them under control. "Give the peasants neither life nor death," he said, meaning feed them only enough to keep them from starving to death, but no more. The daimyos were kept under control by requiring that their families live near Tokugawa's government at Edo. This way they could easily be captured as hostages should a daimyo decide to turn against his leader. Tokugawa also banned the recently introduced religion of Christianity in favor of the Chinese philosophy of Confucius. Confucius taught that all people should obey their superiors. Children should obey their parents; soldiers should obey their military leaders. Tokugawa saw this as an additional means of control.

**CLOSES JAPAN** Finally, as a means to eliminate any outside influence, Tokugawa closed Japan to all foreigners and trade outside the country. Only the harbor at Nagasaki was left open to limited trade with the Dutch and Chinese. When some sailors from Portugal asked if they too could trade in Nagasaki, Tokugawa had them beheaded, sending a clear message to sailors of other countries to stay away from Japan. Tokugawa carefully planned all parts of Japanese society and also planned to control the future of Japan after his death. His son was allowed to become shogun before Ieyasu died, so he could assure a stable transfer of power. The title of shogun remained in the Tokugawa family for more than 250 years, and Japan remained closed to the rest of the world during the entire time.



The title of SHOGUN remained in the family for 250 years ...





## ESSAY OBJECTIVE TEST 5

1. Who was the clever general under Nobunaga who became absolute military ruler in the 16th century?
  - a. Hideyoshi
  - b. Ieyasu Tokugawa
  - c. Yoritomo
2. Who was the one war lord that Hideyoshi could not defeat?
  - a. Nobunaga
  - b. Kublai Khan
  - c. Ieyasu Tokugawa
3. Where was Hideyoshi's huge castle built?
  - a. Edo
  - b. Osaka
  - c. Kyoto
  - d. Nagasaki
4. What was introduced by the Portuguese in the 1500s that changed Japanese warfare dramatically?
  - a. Swords
  - b. Bombs
  - c. Muskets
  - d. Tanks
5. In whom did Hideyoshi trust to care for his son after his death?
  - a. Nobunaga
  - b. Tokugawa
  - c. Confucius
  - d. Jimmu
6. Who was the general that brought the "Period of the Warring States" to an end?
  - a. Yoritomo
  - b. Nobunaga
  - c. Tokugawa
  - d. Hideyoshi

Questions

## ESSAY OBJECTIVE TEST 6

1. Where did Ieyasu Tokugawa set up his government?
  - a. Edo
  - b. Kyoto
  - c. Osaka
  - d. Korea
  
2. Who was the shogun that closed Japan to foreigners and banned Christianity?
  - a. Tokugawa
  - b. Jimmu
  - c. Hideyoshi
  - d. Yoritomo
  
3. Name two types of theater that developed in Japan during the Tokugawa period.
  - a. Dramatic
  - b. No
  - c. Mime
  - d. Kabuki
  
4. What did Tokugawa like best?
  - a. Wealth
  - b. Power and control
  - c. Chocolate
  
5. Who was the Chinese philosopher that taught that children should respect their parents?
  - a. Khan
  - b. Tokugawa
  - c. Buddha
  - d. Confucius
  
6. What was the name of the social system that Tokugawa used to organize and control Japan?
  - a. Feudalism
  - b. Democracy
  - c. Empire

Questions

## ESSAY OBJECTIVE TEST 7

1. The Tokugawa shogunate ended after more than 250 years of power?
  - a. True
  - b. False
2. For many years, this city was the only port that foreigners were allowed to visit.
  - a. Tokyo
  - b. Kyoto
  - c. Nagasaki
3. Who was the American that opened trade with Japan in 1854?
  - a. Commodore Perry
  - b. General MacArthur
  - c. President Wilson
4. Japan changed very slowly after it opened to world trade in the 1850s.
  - a. True
  - b. False
5. On what type of ships did the United States arrive in Japan?
  - a. Steam
  - b. Sailing
  - c. Cruise
  - d. Submarines
6. The number of times Japan had been conquered by another nation between the time of Jimmu and 1854.
  - a. None
  - b. Once
  - c. Twice
  - d. Thrice

Questions



# THE GEOGRAPHY OF JAPAN

**Directions:**

Read the information below about the geography of Japan. Use the NORTH, EAST, SOUTH and WEST direction markers on the compass rose to help you find the important locations on the map. Then fill in the names of the locations on the map.

Japan is an archipelago, or a chain of islands, located in the Eastern and Northern hemispheres. This small but densely populated nation is made up of four main islands and hundreds of smaller islands.

The main island farthest to the north is (1).

South of Hokkaido is the largest of the islands, (2).

(7) is the smallest of the main islands, and it is surrounded by the (6).

The main island farthest south is called (9).

(10) is the largest city on Kyushu.

(3) is the capitol city of Japan. This modern city is located on Tokyo Bay and is one of the world's largest cities. In earlier times Tokyo was known as Edo.

Near Tokyo is the famous and beautiful (13), where many Japanese people enjoy hiking, sightseeing, and meditating.

Southwest of Mount Fuji is (4), the city where many Japanese emperors once lived.

To the southwest is the large seaport city of (5). The historic and famous Castle of Osaka is located here.

West of Osaka is (8) Although Hiroshima and Nagasaki were destroyed by atomic bombs during World War II, both are thriving, industrial cities today.

Another ancient castle famous in the history of Japan is located at (14), a city at the northern end of the island of Honshu.

To the east of Japan is the (12), and to the west is the (11).

