

Aim: What was life like in Feudal Japan?

Do Now: What occurred during the Heian Period and the Kamakura Shogunate?

Notes

I. Japanese Feudalism

1. Stressed military ability
2. Fujiwara built huge military estates
3. Estates were self-sufficient
4. Heian period the gov't became decentralized
5. Feudalism was born 1185-1600

II. Japanese Society

1. **Emperor**: figurehead, continued to rule but no power
2. **Shogun**: Military general
3. **Daimyo**: Landowners, nobles, collected taxes, created armies, controlled peasants
4. **Samurai**: "those who serve", warriors on horseback
5. **Peasants**: Bound to land like serfs

III. Bushido

1. Samurai warrior code
2. Stressed self-discipline
3. Death over life
4. courage, obedience and loyalty to shogun and emperor.
5. **Seppuku**: Ritual suicide that allowed death with honor

IV. Similarities between Feudal Europe and Japan

1. Developed around the same time
2. Strict political structure
3. Strict social structure
4. Honor code: chivalry vs. Bushido

V. Differences between Feudal Europe and Japan

- a. Role of the Shogun
- b. European women: high regard and adored
- c. Japanese women: no freedoms and inferior
- d. European feudalism was legal and contractual
- e. Japanese feudalism was less focused on morality and loyalty