

## Geography and Early Japan

### Land of the Rising Sun

#### Origin of the Name

Name comes from the Chinese symbols

For “sun” & “source”.

Intended to call the country, “Nippon”.

Pronunciation came out “Jihpen”.

#### Main Idea: Geography shaped life in Japan.

Being an island nation led to isolationism and few foreign influences.

Having few land resources led to a dependence on the sea and the resources found there.

#### Creation of Japan

The Islands were created by the God, Izanagi.

The Sun Goddess created the Japanese, Izanami.

The Emperor is a God.

#### Early Japan

**Early Japanese society was organized in clans which came to be ruled by emperors.**

The Ainu who were believed to come from Siberia & eventually disappeared.

The Jomon people (Korea) migrated to the islands.

Settled on the Yamato Plain and grew rice.

Clans ruled until 400 A.D. Yamato Clan the first.

#### Shinto

Based on nature.

Divine spirits are known as the Kami.

Everything in nature has *kami*.

They built shrines to the *kami* and asked the spirits to bless them.

Chiefs gained power through the Kami.

The Sun Goddess the highest.

#### Outside Influences

Sent to China to learn.

Brought back many ideas.

Chinese architecture.

Chinese political system.

Chinese writing system

Buddhism (Korea)