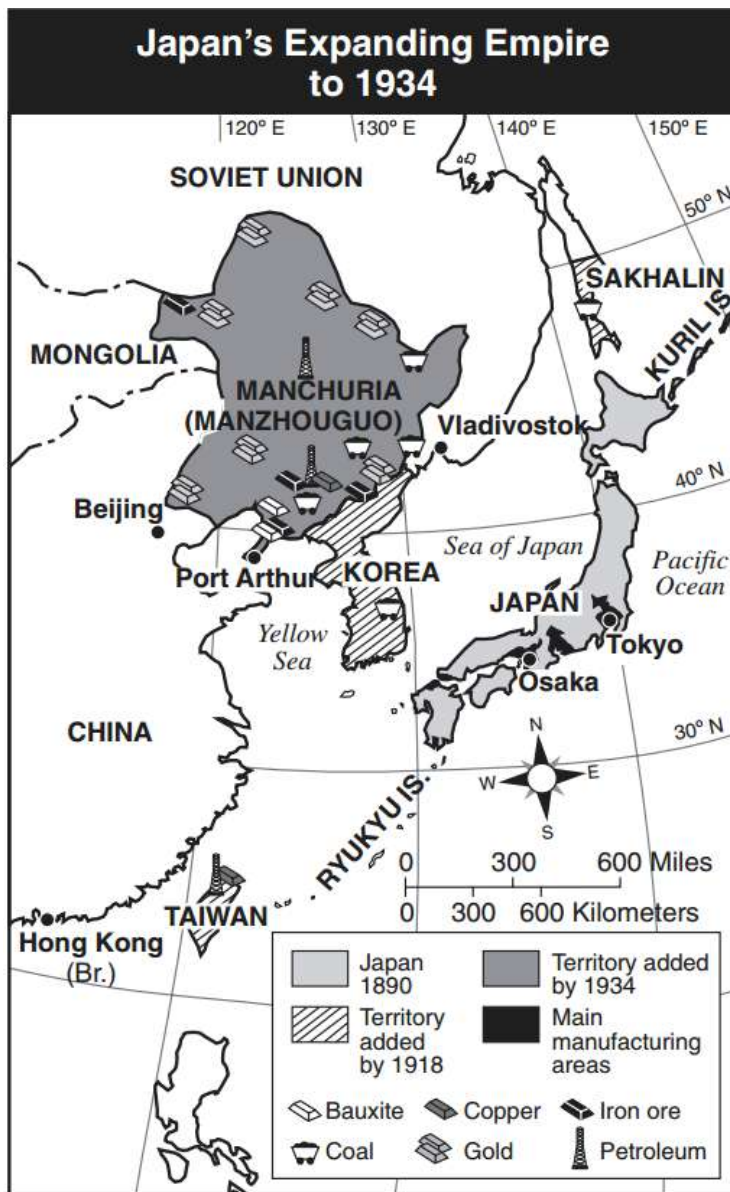


Name _____

Japanese Geography and the Problem with Industrialization



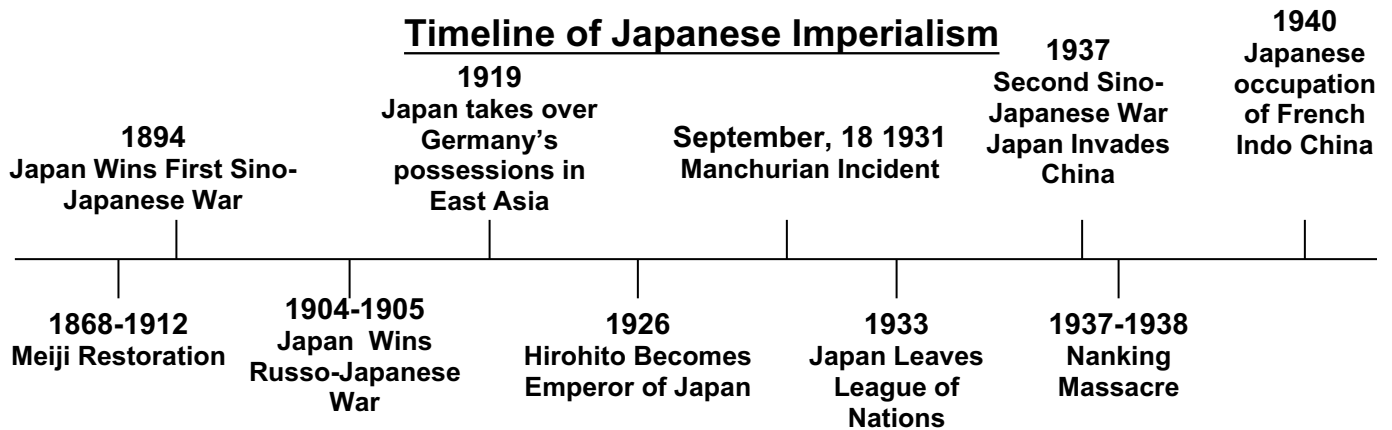
Source: Elisabeth Gaynor Ellis and Anthony Esler, *World History Connections to Today: The Modern Era*, Prentice-Hall (adapted) from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Exam, January 2003.

During the **Meiji Restoration** (1868-1890), the Japanese studied the political, economic, and social institutions of the Western powers and selectively adopted certain institutions to meet their needs. For example, they modeled their constitution and government after Western European ones... Most importantly, the Japanese industrialized during the Meiji Restoration and experienced many of the same effects that England had earlier in the century. Cities grew as more Japanese moved from farming into jobs in factories and offices. In the countryside larger landlords came to own more and more land, and the number of poor tenants increased.

Unlike England, who had an abundance of coal and other natural resources necessary for industrialization, Japan had very few of these raw materials. Instead, the Japanese traded for raw materials to fuel their factories and make their products. In the 1920s, for example, the Japanese traded goods like steel and silk stockings, which were very popular in the United States, for raw materials. The strategy of trading for natural resources worked well for Japan until the Great Depression hit the world in 1929. As a result of the Great Depression, foreign governments and companies had little money to spend on Japanese goods.

1. In terms of access to natural resources, how did Japan differ from England?	2. How did Japan acquire the natural resources needed for industrialization before the Great Depression?	3. What was the effect of the Great Depression on Japan's ability to trade for raw materials?

Imperial Japan



To get the raw materials they needed, the Japanese decided to do what European had started earlier in the century: imperialize. First, the Japanese, with their new industrial strength and modern weapons, renegotiated the unequal treaties they made with Western nations like the United States when Commodore Matthew Perry forced them to open up to trade. Then, Japan fought a war against China in 1894-95 over the control of Korea and gained Taiwan, Japan's first colony. In 1902, Japan signed an alliance with Great Britain, which signified a dramatic increase in international status, and in 1904-5, Japan won a war against Russia, one of the major Western powers. In the process Japan expanded its empire, annexing Korea in 1910. Japan was allied with the United States and Britain in World War I, and expected territorial gains at the Versailles peace conference in 1919. Instead Japan met with strong opposition from the United States, and again learned the lesson that the West regarded imperialism very differently if it was the imperialism of an Asian nation rather than a European power.

Source: Adapted from "Japan's Modern History: An Outline of the Period." Asia for Educators.
http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/timelines/japan_modern_timeline.htm

4. In the 1900s, before the Great Depression, how did Japan acquire raw materials for industrialization?	5. Which countries/regions did Japan conquer between 1894 and 1940?	6. The text states that after the Versailles Peace Conference, that Japan "learned the lesson that the West regarded imperialism very differently if it was the imperialism of an Asian nation rather than a European power." Explain what this means.

Video on Japan (and the Manchurian Incident) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6MkPMecMOZM>

- Based on the first minute of the video, describe Japan in the 1920s before the Depression.
- What was the Manchurian Incident? Why did it happen?
- What were the effects of the Manchurian incident for China? For Japan?