

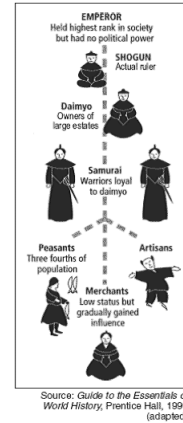
Meiji Restoration and Japan's Modernization

Tokugawa Shogunate

The Tokugawa Shogunate was the government that ruled Japan from 1600 to 1868.

Tokugawa Laws of Japan in 1634

- Japanese ships shall not be sent abroad.
- No Japanese shall be sent abroad. Anyone breaking this law shall suffer the penalty of death....
- The arrival of foreign ships must be reported to Edo (Tokyo) and a watch kept over them.
- The samurai shall not buy goods on board foreign ships.



1. Based on the Tokugawa Laws of Japan in 1634, what was the Tokugawa Shogunate's point of view concerning people outside of Japan?
2. What effects do you think the Tokugawa Shogunate's policies had on Japan's economy and society? Explain.
3. Look at the first group of paintings from Japan in the mid-1800s. What is the overall feeling/message of the paintings?
4. Look at the painting of the Tokugawa Shogun. Describe how he is a reflection of the overall culture of Tokugawa Japan.

Perry's Arrival



In 1854 Commodore Matthew Perry arrived in Japan with his steam ships and modern weapons to open Japan to trade.

5. Based on your knowledge of this time period, why do you think the United States wanted to establish trade with Japan?
6. Look at the paintings of Perry's arrival. What is the overall feeling/message of the paintings?
7. The Treaty of Kanagawa was signed between the US and Japan in 1854 that guaranteed the US and Japanese trade relationship. How is this treaty similar and different from the Treaty of Nanking in 1847 between China and Britain?
8. Why do you think the Japanese decided to modernize their country?

Meiji Restoration

The arrival of warships from the United States and European nations, their advanced and formidable technology, and their ability to force the Japanese to agree to trade terms that were unfavorable for Japan sparked a period of rapid industrialization and modernization called the Meiji Restoration. This reaction was called the Meiji Restoration because *Meiji* (meaning “enlightened rule”) was the name taken by the emperor, and during this period he was “restored” as the leader of the nation, but like in monarchs of England or France at the time, he had very little real power. Under the slogan of "National Wealth and Military Strength," the Meiji government adopted a number of ideas from European countries and the United States relating to government, and technologies to bolster industry, communication, and transportation that greatly impacted Japanese and global history.

What steps did Japan take to modernize its country?

Politically	Economically	Socially

9. Which of these steps do you think was most important? Why?
10. Do you think the Japanese made the right decision? Why or why not? Explain.