Japanese Feudalism

Nara through Edo

(710-1868)
Teaching Standard 6-4.3

• Summarize the features and major contributions of Japanese civilization, including the Japanese feudal system, the Shinto traditions, and contributions in literature and arts.
Teaching Standard 6-3.1

• Explain feudalism and its relationship to the development of European nation states and monarchies, including feudal relationships, the daily lives of peasants and serfs, the economy under the feudal/manorial system, and the fact that feudalism helped monarchs centralize power.
Teaching Standard GS 2.5

- Summarize the functions of feudalism and manorialism in medieval Europe, including the creation of nation-states as feudal institutions helped monarchies to centralize power and the evolution of the relationship between the secular states and Roman Catholic Church.
Nara Period Institutions

- Centralized government.
- Central tax system.
- Conscript army.
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Heian Period (794-1185)

- Conscript army abandoned.
- Central tax system breaks down.
- Period concludes with civil war.
- Warriors take control of government.
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Gempei War Sites

- Izu Peninsula
- Kamakura
- Uji Bridge
- Ichi-no-Tani
- Yashima
- Dan-no-Ura
Kamakura Period (1185-1333)

- Shogunate separates military power from imperial court.
- Hojo Regents rule; Emperor reigns
- Feudal institutions grow slowly.
Yoritomo’s Sons
Yoritomo’s Offspring

- Yoritomo
- Yoriie
- Sanetomo
- Kugyo (grandson)
- Ichiman (grandson)
Hojo Regents
Govern by Committee
Reconstruction of Todai-ji
Kamakura Daibutsu & Popular Buddhism
Mongol Invasions
1274 & 1281

I have conquered China; now Japan!
Failure of Hojo Regents

- Lack of primogeniture.
- Vassals sink into poverty.
- Land stress made warriors more aggressive.
- Mongol wars defensive-- no rewards.
- Shrines and temples claimed credit for victory-- *kamikaze* (divine wind)
Muromachi (Ashikaga) Period (1336-1568)

- Kyoto both political and cultural center
- Zen influence on high culture.
- Renewed contact with China
- Conservative Southern Song cultural imports.
Sengoku Period
(1477-1568)

• Onin War
  (1467-77)
• Total disintegration of central authority.
• High feudalism
• Spread of high culture
• Constant warfare
Bizen Province

SCCTA Seminar
Bizen in Sengoku Period
Early Career of Ukita Naoie
Ukita’s Personal Control of Vassals
Local Unity under Ukita
Azuchi/ Momoyama Period (1568-1598)

- Unification Wars
- Oda Nobunaga
- Toyotomi Hideyoshi
- Tokugawa Ieyasu
Oda Nobunaga
d. 1582

Controls Kyoto
Ousts last Ashikaga shogun.
Destroys Hieizan
Friendly to Europeans
Nobunaga's Realm in 1582

SCCTA Seminar
Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1536-1598)

- Consolidates Japan
- One large daimyo cluster.
- 4 class system
- Sword Hunt (farmers disarmed)
- Korean invasion disaster (1592 & 1597).
Edo (Tokugawa) Period (1600-1868)

• Battle of Sekigahara
Tokugawa Ieyasu (1542-1616)

- Final unity
- Founds *bakufu*
- *Daimyo* control system.
Castles and Castle Towns
Edo Period Control Techniques

- Japanese forbidden to leave & return (1635).
- Foreigners forbidden to enter (1639).
- Local areas controlled by *daimyo* (lords).
- *Daimyo* controlled by shogunate.
- Travel discouraged.