

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Japan Moves Into Modern Times

Officially, in feudal Japan, the emperor held the top position in the government. In reality, he was just for show and had no real power. The person who was really in charge of Japan was the shogun, or supreme military commander. In 1603, Tokugawa Ieyasu was named shogun. He and his family, called the Tokugawa shogunate, ruled Japan until 1868.

Before the Tokugawa shogunate, the shogun only controlled part of the country. He gave lands to great warrior lords called daimyo. In this feudal

system, the daimyo depended on lesser warriors called samurai. Samurai were like the medieval knights of Europe. A samurai fought for his daimyo. The daimyo often fought each other for control of lands. The Tokugawa shoguns wanted to stop feudal warfare in Japan.

Over many years, the Tokugawa shoguns brought Japan together as a nation and built a unified, orderly society. The shoguns liked some parts of feudal society, like the daimyo, so they kept those. However, they also created a strong central government that controlled Japan. For this reason, the government of the Tokugawa shogunate is called centralized feudalism.

The daimyo still governed at the local level. These leaders spent much of their time at their castles and in their communities. To control the daimyo, the Tokugawa shoguns made daimyo live in the capital at Edo, present-day Tokyo, every other year. The daimyo's wife and children lived in the capital full-time. This gave the shogun more control over each family. Daimyo were watched carefully and had to get permission to marry or repair their castles.

Although the shoguns were very conservative and controlling, the Tokugawa shogunate brought peace to Japan. This long period of stability was known as the Great Peace. By the mid-1700s, Japan changed from a rural, or farming, society to a more urban, or city-based, society. Edo grew from a small town into one of the largest cities in the world. By the early 1800s, it had a population of over 1 million people. Trade increased, merchants grew rich, and a good economy helped Japanese culture to advance.

As more European merchants and missionaries traveled to Japan, the country's leaders changed their foreign policy. They wanted to keep Japan separate from outside influence. By the 1630s, Japan closed its doors to the rest of the world. Only one port at Nagasaki was left open to foreign traders. For more than 200 years, Japan developed as a self-sufficient country. Unlike in other parts of Asia, Europeans did not start colonies in Japan.



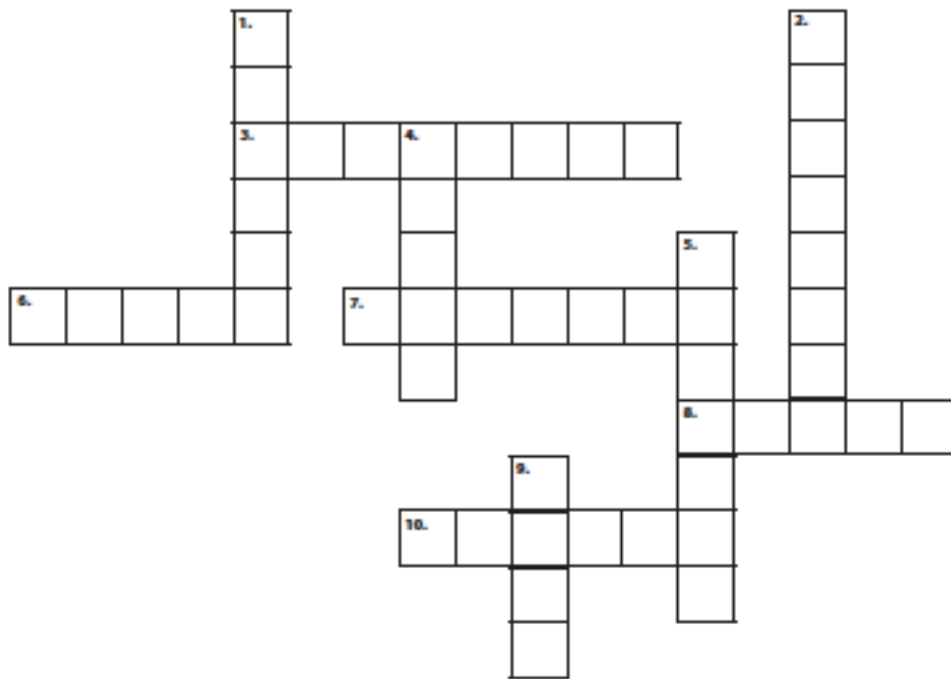
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### Crossword Puzzle

Write the best answer in each blank, and complete the crossword puzzle.



### ACROSS

- The \_\_\_\_\_ shogunate ruled Japan until 1868.
- The Tokugawa shogunate brought peace and stability to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Japanese warriors were called \_\_\_\_\_.
- The daimyo often fought each other for control of \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ were watched carefully by the shoguns.

### DOWN

- The Tokugawa shoguns brought Japan together as a/an \_\_\_\_\_.
- By the 1630s, Japan decided not to let in any more \_\_\_\_\_ merchants and missionaries.
- By the mid-1700s, Japan's society became a more \_\_\_\_\_ society.
- By the early 1800s, Edo had grown from a small town to a city with a population of over 1 \_\_\_\_\_.
- The daimyo's \_\_\_\_\_ and children lived in the capital full-time.