



Preview – Information



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Google Slides Lessons Preview





Alberta Social Studies

Isolation to Adaptation Japan – Grade 8


3-Part Lesson Format

Part 1 – Minds On!

- Learning Goals
- Discussion Questions
- Quotes
- And More!

The Geography of Japan: Shaping a Worldview

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- 1) What do you already know about Japan or where it is in the world?
- 2) How do you think mountains or oceans can affect the way people live?
- 3) What are some challenges you might face if your country had thousands of islands?

Multiple-Choice Activity

	A	B	C
1) Why do most people in Japan live near the coast?			
A) Mountains cover most of the interior.			
B) Coastal areas are cooler.			
C) Cities are only allowed near oceans.			
2) How did Japan's many mountains affect its culture?			
A) They made farming easier.			
B) They encouraged war between countries.			
C) They helped isolate and preserve traditions.			
3) What is one reason Japan stayed independent for so long?			
A) Its geography made it hard to invade.			
B) It was too small to conquer.			
C) It had stronger weapons than others.			
4) How did Japan's location affect its view of outsiders?			
A) It welcomed constant immigration.			
B) It developed with little outside influence.			
C) It depended heavily on trade with neighbours.			
5) Why were typhoons important in Japan's history?			
A) They caused Japan to move its capital.			
B) They destroyed Mongol invasion fleets.			
C) They helped Japan connect with China.			
6) Which is one cultural result of Japan's long isolation?			
A) Japan used the same writing system as Korea.			
B) Japan shared one religion with all of Asia.			
C) Japan developed unique customs and arts.			

Part 2 – Action!

- Surveys/Polls
- Matching
- Drag and Drop
- Videos
- And More!

Part 3 – Consolidation!


- Exit Cards
- Quick Draw
- 3-2-1 Reflection
- One-Sentence Summary

Consolidation – 3-2-1 Reflection Activity

After today's lesson on The Geography of Japan, reflect on the following:

- 3 things you learned about how Japan's geography influenced its culture and development.
- 2 ways isolation shaped Japan's traditions or worldview.
- 1 question you still have about how geography affects a country.

Write your responses in your notebook or share them with a partner. If short on time, do this as a whole-class activity.





Alberta Social Studies

Isolation to Adaptation Japan – Grade 8

Matching Activity: Power and Roles in Tokugawa Japan

(Drag each description to the correct social class)

Concepts	Description
Shogun	
Daimyo	
Samurai	
Peasants	
Merchants	
Artisans	

- Traded goods and became wealthy but ranked low in status.
- Worked the land and produced food, made up 80% of the population.
- Made tools, weapons, and goods but had little social status.
- Held the most power, controlled military and political decisions.
- Warriors who followed a strict code of honour and could carry swords.
- Wealthy landowners who ruled local areas and answered to the shogun.

Roles and Influence

Word bank to complete the short paragraph below.

Project Planning

Without constant war, Japan experienced peace, and the role of the _____ changed. managed records. Others became _____ who worked in government or Some focused on arts like _____, teaching writing, ethics, and _____ followed the code of _____ or theatre, helping shape culture. Even in peace, samurai roles showed samurai could serve society with more than just a sword. _____, loyalty, and respect. Their new

Word Bank:

Bushido	evaluation	honor	educators
poetry	calligraphy	samurai	officials
flexibility		obstacles	

Word Search – Cultural Identity in Isolation

Find the words related to Japan's Edo period and cultural isolation hidden in the puzzle and circle them!

Bushido	Samurai
Isolation	Shinto
Sakoku	Kabuki
Edo	Confucian
Buddhism	Poetry
Values	Harmony
Respect	Culture



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Isolation to Adaptation Japan – Grade 8

Feudal To Capitalist Japan

Check the actions that helped Japan move from a feudal to a capitalist economy.

Action	Effect
Building national banks to support business.	Creating transportation like railways and ports.
Expanding trade with other countries.	Stopping industrial growth to keep traditions.
Keeping the country isolated from foreign trade.	Selling government factories to private owners.
Giving all land back to the samurai.	Refusing to use machines or modern tools.
Using rice as the main form of currency.	Encouraging private business like Mitsubishi.
Supporting private businesses like Mitsubishi.	

Use these checkmarks for your answers.

✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✓

Cause And Effect: Western Influence On Japanese Intellectuals

Instructions: Drag the letter of each Effect to match its corresponding Cause. There is one extra effect.

Cause	Effect
1. Western medicine is introduced to Japan.	A) Some artists began painting in realistic styles using oil paint.
2. Western universities begin teaching science and math.	B) Doctors began using vaccinations and modern surgical tools.
3. European painting styles arrive in Japan.	C) Factories and railways were built using modern machinery.
4. Socialist and Marxist ideas spread among intellectuals.	D) Students debated ancient myths and folk legends in universities.
5. Thinkers like Fukuzawa promote individual rights and democracy.	E) Many people started questioning social class and demanded equality.
6. Industrial techniques are brought in from the West.	F) Artists returned with new techniques and mixed them with Japanese tradition.
7. Japanese artists study abroad in Europe.	G) New university programs focused on physics, chemistry, and engineering.
	H) Writers began challenging traditional values and promoting democracy.

Japan's Emergence As A World Power

(Drag Each Description To The Correct Concept)

Key Terms	Description
Meiji Restoration	Introduced schools that focused on science, math, and literacy.
Military Modernization	Built factories and railways to increase production and trade.
Russo-Japanese War	Took ideas from Europe to build modern industry and government.
Industrial Growth	Replaced samurai rule with a central government and new reforms.
Education Reform	Japan defeated a European power and gained world recognition.
Western Influence	Adopted Western-style army with training, weapons, and tactics.



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Alberta Social Studies

Origins of a Western Worldview – Grade 8

3-Part Lesson Format

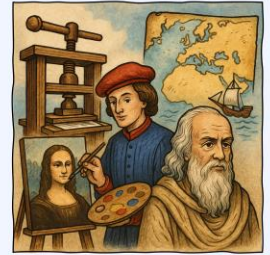
Part 1 – Minds On!

- Learning Goals
- Discussion Questions
- Quotes
- And More!

The Renaissance: A Time of New Ideas

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Have you ever heard the word "Renaissance"? What do you think it means?
- 2) What do you think life was like before people had easy access to books?
- 3) How do you think art can help people understand new ideas?



Matching Activity: Key Features of The Renaissance

(Drag each description to match the correct key feature)

Key Features	Description
Printing Press	
Humanism	
Scientific Progress	
Classical Knowledge	
Artistic Innovation	
Exploration	

- Scientists challenged old ideas and explored new ways of thinking.
- Artists used emotion, perspective, and realism in their work.
- People were curious about the world and began exploring it.
- Focused on human potential, education, and civic life.
- Rediscovered Greek and Roman ideas from ancient texts.
- A machine that made books faster and spread ideas to more people.

Part 2 – Action!

- Surveys/Polls
- Matching
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- And More!

Part 3 – Consolidation!

- Exit Cards
- Quick Draw
- 3-2-1 Reflection
- One-Sentence Summary



Consolidation – What Stuck With You?

After learning about the key features of the Renaissance, do this activity:

- Choose one key development from the Renaissance (e.g. printing press, humanism, exploration, science, art).
- Explain why it was important and give one example of how it still influences life today.
- Share your idea with a partner or the class.





Alberta Social Studies

Origins of a Western Worldview – Grade 8

Design Or Tools?

Drag each innovation into the correct category: Design or Tools, based on how it was used in Renaissance architecture and engineering.

Design		
Tools		

Cranes and hoists	Materials like brick, limestone, and strong mortar	Dome and arch geometry
Scaffolding	Use of symmetry	Linear perspective

Action

Understanding Renaissance Art

(Drag The Missing Word From The Word Bank Below To Complete The Sentence)

Sentence	Word Bank
1) The Renaissance was a period of cultural growth that began in _____.	
2) Artists developed _____ to create depth on flat surfaces.	
3) _____ studied muscles and the human body to create realistic sculptures.	
4) _____ was a technique that used light and shadow to show contrast.	
5) The painting <i>The School of Athens</i> is an example of _____ in art.	
6) Renaissance artists used _____ to better understand the body's form.	
7) Renaissance ideas still influence _____, video games, and films today.	
8) _____ was known for his sculpture <i>David</i> and painting the Sistine Chapel ceiling.	

Word Bank: Realism, Italy, Michelangelo, Modern media, Anatomy, Michelangelo, Perspective, Printing, Sculpture, Chiaroscuro

Action

Modern Political Thought

Drag each idea into the correct category: A, B, or C.

Question	A	B	C
1) What idea did Shakespeare support in <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> ?			
2) What idea did Machiavelli support in <i>The Prince</i> ?			
3) What did Humanism encourage during the Renaissance?			
4) Why was Utopian Thinking important in Renaissance politics?			
5) What does "accountability" in government mean today?			
6) How did the Renaissance challenge authority?			
7) Why is education valued in modern politics?			
8) Which Renaissance idea influenced modern democracy the most?			

Action



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Ontario Social Studies

Worldviews in Conflict Spanish & Aztecs – Grade 8

3-Part Lesson Format

Part 1 – Minds On!

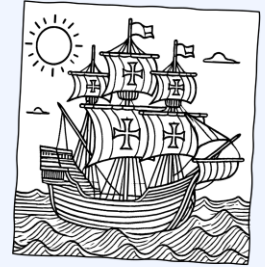
- Learning Goals
- Discussion Questions
- Quotes
- And More!

Geography, Resources, and Worldviews



LEARNING GOAL

We are learning to **understand how geography and resources shape societies** so we can **explain how environments influence worldviews and culture using examples like the Aztecs and Spain.**



Cause And Effect: How Geography Shapes Worldviews



Instructions: Drag the letter of each Effect to match its corresponding Cause.

Cause	Effect
The Aztecs built chinampas (floating gardens) on water.	A) They built strong trade networks with nearby civilizations.
The Aztec capital was located on an island.	B) Their religious beliefs focused on maintaining fertile land through rituals.
Spain had forests that supported shipbuilding.	C) Their location helped develop strong defenses.
Spain's access to the Atlantic Ocean supported trade.	D) They became a global empire through maritime exploration.
Aztec farming success allowed their population to grow.	E) They developed boats to cross rivers and lakes.
The Aztecs traded resources like cocoa and jade.	F) They used new lands to spread religion and gain power.
Spanish explorers expanded into new lands with valuable resources.	G) The population grew, supporting large cities like Tenochtitlan.
	H) They built ships that could explore distant parts of the world.

Part 2 – Action!

- Surveys/Polls
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Part 3 – Consolidation!

- Exit Cards
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Consolidation – Quiz Questions

Write two quiz questions about how geography and natural resources can shape a society's beliefs, economy, and way of life.

- One question should be true or false.
- The other question can be fill in the blank or a short answer.
- Be ready to share your questions with a partner or the class!



Motivations Behind Spain's Expansion

(Drag The Missing Word From The Word Bank Below to complete each sentence.)

Sentence	Missing Word
1) Spain's desire for ____ was a major reason behind exploration.	
2) Spanish explorers were often sent to spread ____.	
3) Spain competed with other ____ powers like Portugal and England.	
4) Many explorers hoped their discoveries would bring ____ to the Spanish crown.	
5) Spain gained power by controlling important ____ routes.	
6) ____ led Spain to explore and learn about new plants and animals.	
7) Colonizing land helped Spain profit from ____ like sugar and tobacco.	
8) Spain believed it had a ____ to expand and control other people.	

Exploration

Trade

Divine mission

Resources

Christianity

Curiosity

Gold

Wealth

European

Glory

The Fall Of Tenochtitlán





Find the words related to the fall of the Aztec Empire hidden in the puzzle and circle them!

Word Search Grid:

A T E C S I E G E C A N N O N S
 Á P J Z B T E N O C H T I T L Á N
 R H K A V C I N D I G E N O U S E
 A X I X Z L O S U R R E N D E R S
 E R K U P Z Á R U O N Q L S I E I
 C O N Q U E S T T M Q O K P I K Q
 E Q G L M O P W Á É L T M L R O G
 K T E S R Q A N X T S E L H G L O
 Q L W A R R I O R S M A L L P O X
 D H M D K A N M O C T E Z U M A A

Tenochtitlán	Conquest
Cortés	Smallpox
Aztecs	Spain
Siege	Cannons
Moctezuma	Warriors
Allies	Indigenous
Surrender	Empire

4 Pics 1 Word – Aztec-Spanish Encounter

R

C

W

A

Y

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M

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D

O

E

H

- Guess the word that connects the four pictures and shows what was important during the Aztec-Spanish Encounter!
- What do the pictures make you think about control or leadership?

Disease brought by the Spanish reduced the Indigenous population.