

Name : _____

Primary Source: "A Samurai Instructs His Son" by Hojo Shigetoki

In 1247 Hojo Shigetoki, a leading samurai in Japan, wrote down major teachings of Bushido for his son after he was appointed to a high government position by a shogun.

Teachings of Bushido Primary Source	Main Idea	Which religion influenced Shigetoki's teachings and why
<p>Decisions made in haste before your feelings are calm can only lead to remorse. Close your eyes and reflect carefully when you have a difficult decision to make. Always be calm and at one with nature and yourself.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>Mental bearing (calmness), not skill, is the sign of a matured samurai. A Samurai therefore should neither be pompous nor arrogant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>You must use careful consideration when choosing the men who will serve you. If men under your orders, however loyal, are not intelligent, you must not trust them with important duties, but rely upon experienced older men.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>In dealing with subordinates do not make an obvious distinction between good and bad. Use the same kind of language; give the same kind of treatment to all, and thus you will get the best out of the worst.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>When human life is at stake you must give most careful thought to your action. Never kill or wound a man in anger, however great the provocation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

<p>Remember that the key to discipline is fair treatment in rewards and in punishments. But make allowance for minor misdeeds in young soldiers and others, if their conduct is usually good.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>Do not be careless or negligent in the presence of subordinates, especially of older men. Thus do not spit or snuffle or engage in rude behavior. This only gives the impression that you do not care for their good opinion. Preserve your dignity. If you behave rudely, they will tell their families and gossip will spread.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>You must treat all servants with proper consideration and generosity, not only your own people but also those of your parents and other superiors. If you don't, they will scorn you and say to one another: "He thinks he is very important, but he doesn't amount to much."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>If the enemy thinks of the mountains, attack like the sea; and if he thinks of the sea, attack like the mountains.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>When accusations are brought to you, always remember that there must be another side to the question. Do not merely indulge in anger. To give fair decision is the most important thing not only in commanding soldiers but also in governing a country.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

Don't write on

IN-CLASS EXERCISE: PRINCE SHOTOKU'S CONSTITUTION

Directions: put yourself in the role of the leader of a clan in Japan in the 600s. Read the excerpts from Prince Shotoku's Constitution below and indicate your feelings about these "Chinese" ideas.

As a clan leader I would...

Agree

Disagree




Not sure

Explanation

1. Harmony is to be cherished, and opposition is to be avoided. Men are often influenced by self-interest, so there are some who disobey their lords and fathers, or who argue with their neighboring villages. If those above are harmonious and those below are friendly, there will be nothing that cannot be accomplished.				
2. When the emperor gives a command, obey it with reverence. The sovereign is likened to Heaven, and his subjects are likened to the Earth. With Heaven providing the cover and the Earth supporting it, the four seasons proceed in an orderly fashion. If the earth attempts to overtake the function of Heaven, it destroys everything.				
3. Every man must be given his clearly delineated [spelled out in detail] responsibility. If a wise man is trusted with office, the sound of praise arises. If a wicked man holds office, disturbances become frequent... In all things, great and small, find the right man, and the country will be well governed. Therefore did the wise kings of old seek the man to fill the office, not the office for the sake of the man.				
4. Local authorities or local nobles are not permitted to levy [impose] taxes on the people. A country cannot have two sovereigns, nor the people two masters. The officials who are given certain functions are all his [the emperor's] subjects. Being the subjects of the sovereign, these officials have no more right than others to tax the people.				

Don't write on

There a number of religions and belief systems in Japan. Shinto, an animist religion, is native to Japan. Buddhism and Confucianism spread to Japan from China and Korea through the process of cultural diffusion.

Shintoism 	Buddhism 	Confucianism 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everything in nature has a spirit and should be respected • Meditation and concentration • Self Control • native to Japan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meditation and concentration • Selflessness and humility • Self Control • Came to Japan from China through Korea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasized social order • Respect for elders (filial piety) • Justice and fair treatment • Came to Japan from China through Korea