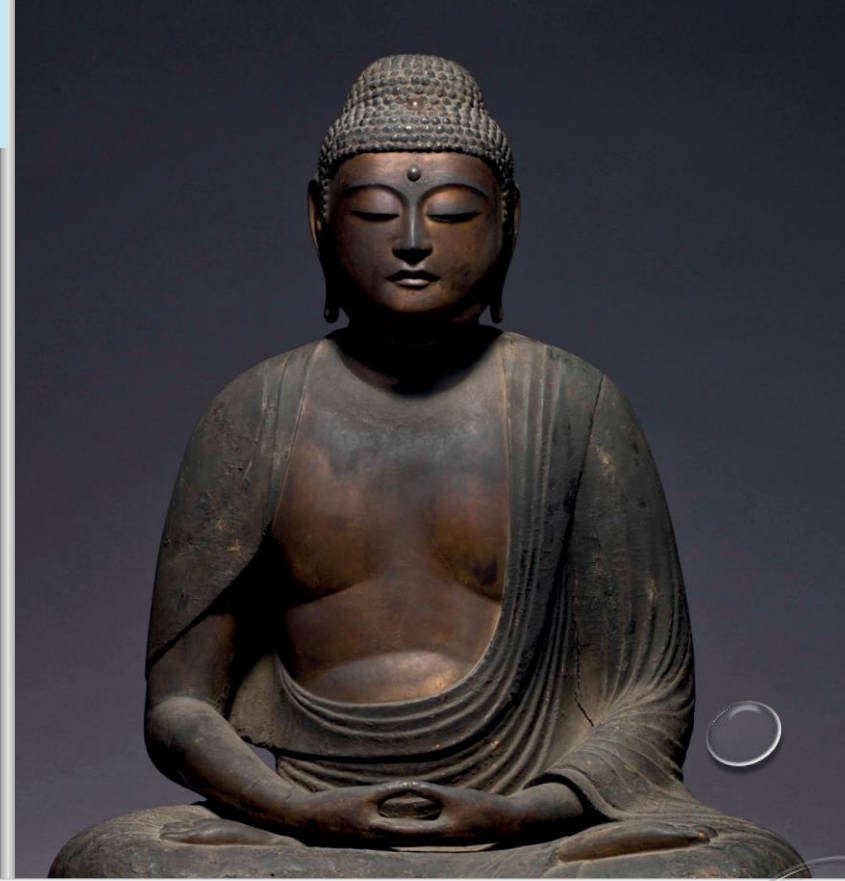


HEIAN CULTURE



THE HEIAN PERIOD (794 – 1185 CE) CONSIDERED JAPAN'S "GOLDEN AGE"

Aim: How does women literature during the Heian period help us better understand life in Japan?

Do Now: Take out your worksheet from Japanese Samiri beliefs and compare them to different Chinese and Japanese religions

- JAPAN MOVED ITS CAPITAL TO KYOTO IN 794 C.E. – THIS WAS THE PERIOD DURING WHICH JAPAN FIRST DISTINGUISHED ITSELF FROM THE IMPORTED CHINESE CULTURE THAT HAD INSPIRED THE EARLY JAPANESE.
- JAPAN WAS READY TO STRIKE OUT ON ITS OWN, AND TO DO THAT, IT OFFICIALLY DISENGAGED FROM CHINA AND BEGAN WHAT WOULD BE ONE OF ITS PERIODS OF DISTANCE FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD.
- THIS WAS TO BECOME A RECURRING THEME IN JAPANESE HISTORY, AS THE COUNTRY VACILLATED BETWEEN ABSORBING FOREIGN INFLUENCES AND THEN WITHDRAWING INTO ITSELF.
- SIGNIFICANT CHANGES DURING THE HEIAN PERIOD WERE OF A POLITICAL NATURE, AND THAT IS REFLECTED IN THE PERIOD'S NAME ITSELF: HEIAN MEANS "PEACE," AND THESE FOUR HUNDRED YEARS WERE, IN FACT, LARGELY PEACEFUL. THAT NAME INDICATES THAT THIS PERIOD OF PEACE WAS DISTINCTIVE; JAPANESE HISTORY WOULD SOON BECOME VERY VIOLENT.

YAMATO-E ART

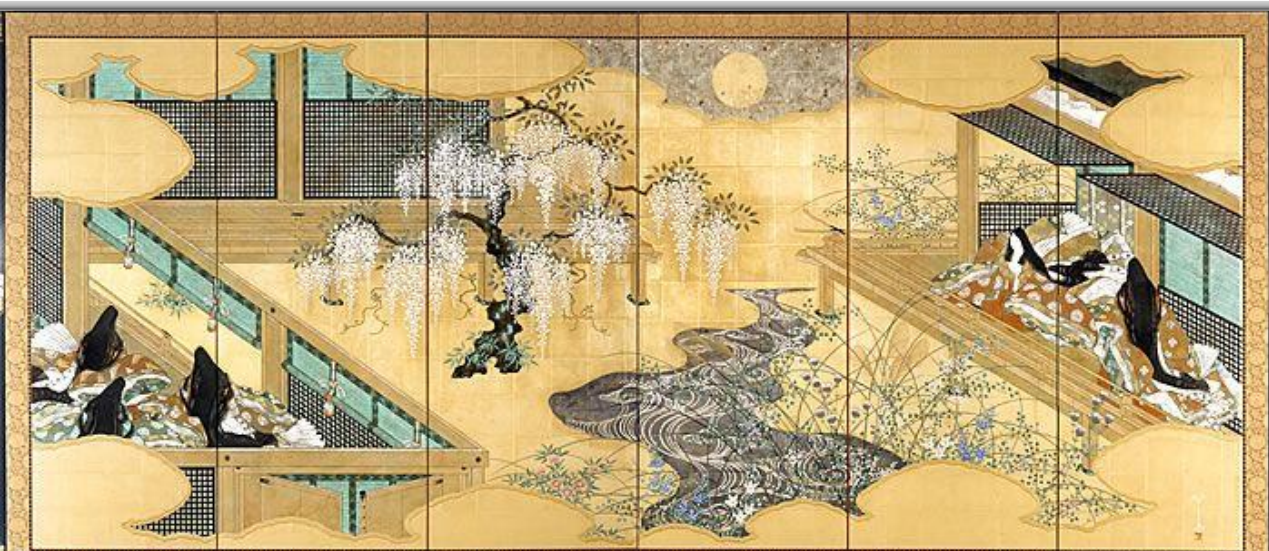


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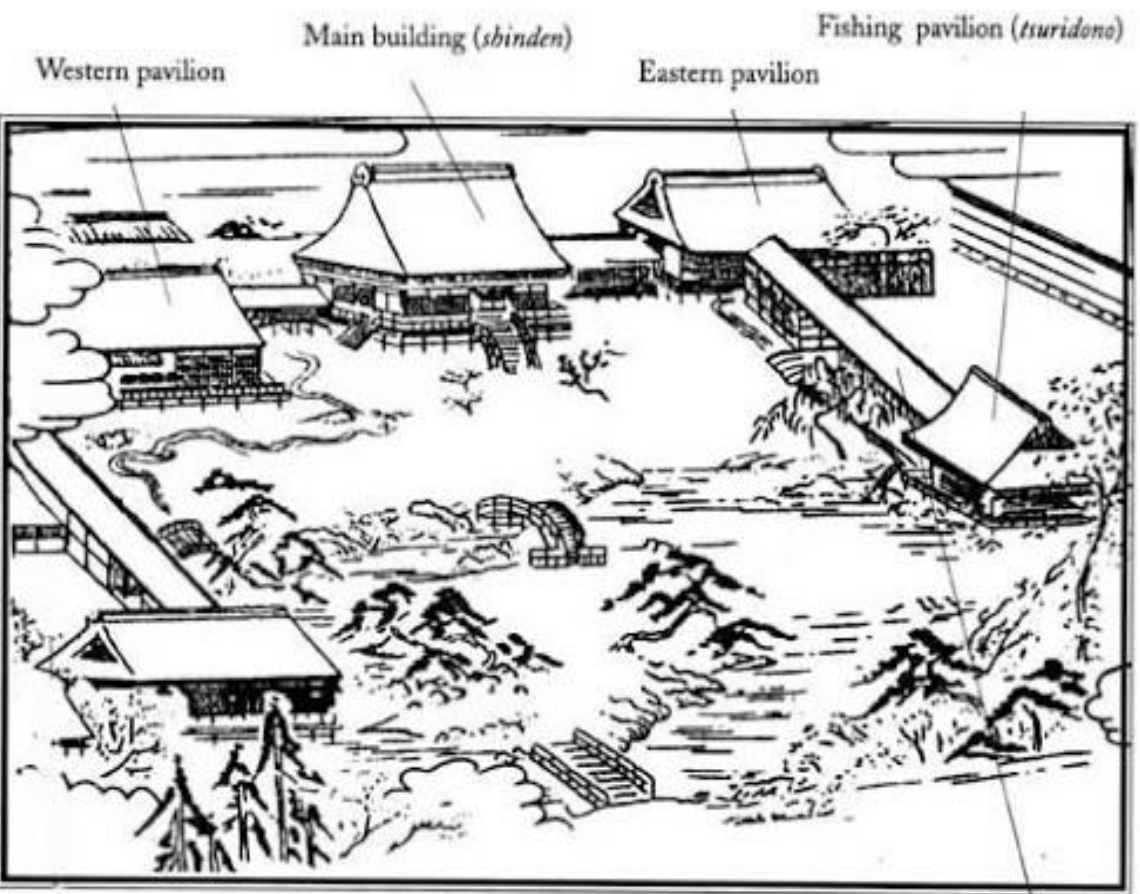
- YAMATO-E - MEANS “JAPANESE PAINTING,” THE TERM WAS MEANT TO DISTINGUISH PAINTINGS CONCERNED WITH JAPANESE SUBJECT MATTER FROM THOSE FEATURING THEMES IMPORTED FROM CHINA

• [HTTPS://WWW.METMUSEUM.ORG/TOAH/HD/YAMA/HD_YAMA.HTM](https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/yama/hd_yama.htm)



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ARCHITECTURE



Layout of a Heian Mansion



Covered corridor



Miniature model of THE TALE OF GENJI - A 1000 year old Japanese novel

BEAUTY



This style of dress is called ni-hito, or "twelve layers," but some upper-class women wore as many as forty layers of unlined silk.



JIDAIYA ARASHIYAMA

A Fashionable Lady in Heian/Fujiwara Japan

794 to 1185 A.D.

The *jūnihitoe* was the formal wear of a Heian court lady. It translates to "twelve unlined robes". However the term that was in actual use during the Heian era is *karaginumo*.

A woman's her fashion ability in clothing and matching colors was seen as more attractive than any physical attributes. (Morris 216)

Breadth = status. It was believed at court that multi-layered clothing gave a higher sense of dignity.

Male and female courtiers required two assistants to help them dress.

Long, straight, thick, glossy black hair was a great social asset. The longer the hair, the more she was admired. False hair was used when needed. (Liddell 46)

Both men and women used white makeup containing mercury chloride and white lead imported from China to create an alabaster complexion.

Brocade was reserved for the top layers. The other layers were plain or monochrome silk twill.

For the Fujiwara lady, 12 layers was typical.

Number of layers for *jūnihitoe* have ranged from 5 to 40.

Madder was used to dye red Hakama (baggy trousers) and kosode (undergarment) as it was believed to help ease menstrual problems.



PEASANT WOMEN: THE LIVES OF PEASANT WOMEN CONTRASTED GREATLY WITH THE LIVES OF WOMEN IN THE UPPER CLASSES. SINCE MOST ACCOUNTS FROM THE PERIOD DEAL WITH THE CONCERNS OF THE ARISTOCRATS, WHO WERE ONLY ABOUT ONE-TENTH OF ONE PERCENT OF JAPAN'S POPULATION, WE KNOW VERY LITTLE OF THE LIVES OF THE VAST MAJORITY WHO WERE COMMONERS. WE DO KNOW THAT WOMEN WORKED ALONGSIDE MEN IN A KIND OF ROUGH EQUALITY AND HAD SOME CONTROL OVER HOUSEHOLD DECISIONS. THEY HELD SOME PROPERTY RIGHTS, INCLUDING RIGHTS OF INHERITANCE AND DIVORCE, ALTHOUGH THEY COULD NOT REMARRY. IN CONTRAST TO ARISTOCRATS, PEASANT WOMEN OFTEN WORE THEIR HAIR SHORT AND, SINCE FAMILIES NEEDED THEIR HANDS FOR LABOR, MARRIED LATE, USUALLY TO SOMEONE IN THEIR OWN VILLAGE OR GROUP OF VILLAGES. FARMERS ONLY TOOK ONE WIFE. AS TIME WENT ON, HOWEVER, THE LATER FEUDAL AGE SAMURAI IDEAL OF THE OBEDIENT, SUBMISSIVE WOMAN WAS ACCEPTED BY THE COMMON PEOPLE AND PEASANT WOMEN LOST MUCH OF THEIR EARLIER INDEPENDENCE.

LITERATURE

- THE PILLOW BOOK OF SEI SHŌNAGON, IN 1002 C.E., AND THE BOOK THAT IS STILL WIDELY REGARDED AS THE WORLD'S FIRST NOVEL, THE TALE OF GENJI BY MURASAKI SHIKIBU, IN THE EARLY 11TH CENTURY. ARE BOOK OF OBSERVATIONS OF LIFE IN THE HEIAN COURT. THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE BOOKS ARE NOT JUST THAT THEY GIVE US INSIGHT INTO LIFE DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF HEIAN LIFESTYLE, BUT IT SHOWS THEM THROUGH THE LENS OF WOMEN (UPPER-CLASS WOMEN) WHICH WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN COMMON THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AT THIS TIME.



ACTIVITY

- **WOMEN AUTHORS VIEW ON CULTURE: AFTER READING AND TAKING NOTES ON BOTH EXCERPTS FROM THE DIARY OF LADY MURASAKI AND THE PILLOW BOOK. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS FROM BOTH READINGS AND THEN WRITE A SUMMARY OF THE DIFFERENT VIEWS BY THE TWO WOMEN ABOUT LIFE HEIAN PERIOD IN JAPAN. TALK ABOUT THE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES OF THE TWO STORIES.**

- **DO NOT WRITE ON THE PAPER!!!!!!!**