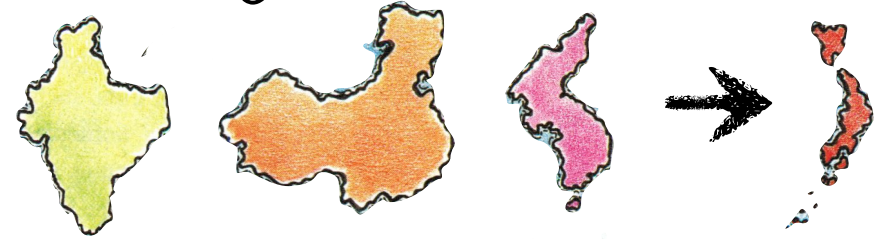




Heian-kyo: The Heart of Japan's Golden Age - Chapter 21

Other Asian cultures influenced Japan, but Japan built on these ideas to build their own unique culture.



Nara had been the Japanese capital, but in 794 the capital was moved to **Heian-kyo**. This began what's called the Heian period-Japan's **Golden Age**.

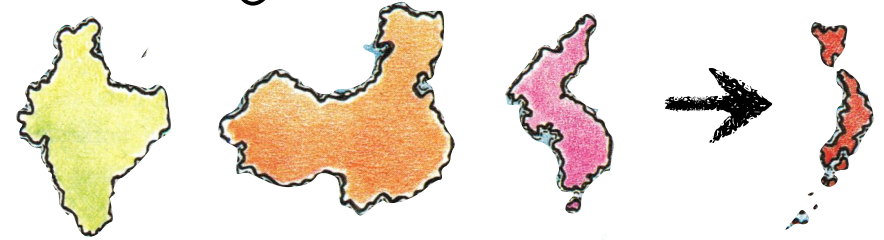
culture

The Heian Period was a time of unique cultural developments.



Heian-kyo: The Heart of Japan's Golden Age - Chapter 21

Other Asian cultures influenced Japan, but Japan built on these ideas to build their own unique culture.



Nara had been the Japanese capital, but in 794 the capital was moved to Heian-kyo. This began what's called the Heian period- Japan's **Golden Age**.

golden-age

The Heian Period was a time of unique cultural developments.



Heian-kyo: The Heart of Japan's Golden Age - Chapter 21

Heian-kyo: the new capital

Heian-kyo was the first truly Japanese city. Heian-kyo means "The Capital of Peace and Tranquility." It is where present day Kyoto is.



Heian-kyo was lovely and ***elegant***. It had forested hills, streams, waterfalls and lakes.

Large ***mansions*** were surrounded by gardens and acres of land.



Shrines and ***temples*** blended with the area's natural beauty.





Heian-kyo: The Heart of Japan's Golden Age - Chapter 21

The Fujiwara Family

The **Fujiwara family ruled Japan for almost 300 years**, but they were never actually "rulers." In Japan, the emperor's family was descended from the sun goddess, but the Fujiwara's still found their way to power.

The Fujiwara family married their young daughters to men in the royal family.

They convinced old emperors to retire so a Fujiwara child could take the throne and they could have great influence.



The Fujiwara built palaces, mansions and temples.





Heian-kyo: The Heart of Japan's Golden Age - Chapter 21

Social Position in Heian Court

Social rank was very important in Japanese culture. Being born to a high-ranking family was more important than personal qualities or skills.



Your rank determined what colors you could wear, what kind of house you had, the fan you used, the height of your gates at your house and even how you were punished for crimes.





Heian-kyo: The Heart of Japan's Golden Age - Chapter 21

Beauty and Fashion

Beauty *elegance* and fashion was very important in Heian times. People were judged by how they looked.





Heian-kyo: The Heart of Japan's Golden Age - Chapter 21

Entertainment

The **aristocrats** had plenty of free time for sports, games and contests. Men enjoyed horse races, archery and sumo wrestling. Women enjoyed boat races, dance and drama.





JAPAN!

Heian-kyo: The Heart of Japan's Golden Age - Chapter 21

Writing and Literature

Writing was valued during the Heian period. Everyone was expected to be able to make up poetry~even on the spot in social situations. Poetry was about nature and love, using **imagery** from nature.



The Tale of Genji is considered the world's first novel. It is a love story written during the Heian period.



JAPAN!

Heian-kyo: The Heart of Japan's Golden Age - Chapter 21

End of the Heian Period

Aristocrats lived well during the Heian period, but poor country farmers did not.

Rich aristocrats did not have to pay taxes and over time the government lost money. The rulers began to lose control.



Bandits roamed the countryside and attacked each other. The government did not have enough money to hire police. **Landowners** began forming their own groups of warriors to protect their land.

By the 12th century there was *civil war*. At the end, a military family had taken over Japan and the Golden Age was over.

