Middle Ages Asia: Japan

Background
- Geography
  o Negatives
    ▪ Isolated from rest of Asia
      • Difficult to adopt technological advancements
    ▪ Poor Soil
      • Needed lots of fertilizer
    ▪ Thinly populated because of Mountains
      • Population mostly located in Coastal plains
      • Slowed development and unification
  o Positives
    ▪ Isolated from rest of Asia
      • Very difficult to invade
      • Culturally isolated
        o Picked and chose what they allowed in
        o Own unique culture
          ▪ Language
          ▪ Art
            • Natural and open
            • Order
    ▪ Close to Korea
      o Tomb Building
      o Art
      o Armor and Weapons
    ▪ Close to China
      o Art
        ▪ Natural themes
        ▪ Calligraphy
    ▪ Islands
      • Easy access to trade and fishing
  o Climate
    • Mild winters
    • Humid summers
      o Rare droughts
- Uji
  o Tribal Colonies
  o Consolidated in 7th Century C.E.
    ▪ Prince Shotoku
      • Sent missionaries to China
- Heian
  o 794-1185 C.E.
  o Nara
    ▪ Modern day Kyoto
  o Center of court culture
    ▪ Buddhist
- Refined
  - Clothing
  - Literature
- Lady Murasaki
  - The Tale of the Genji
  - Overthrown in 1185 C.E.
    - By Minamoto family

**Feudal Japan**
- Kamakura
  - 1193 – 1333 C.E.
  - Establishes capital at Kamakura
  - Establishes Feudal System
    - Emperor – Figurehead at top
    - Shogun – Military leader
      - De-Facto Ruler
    - Daimyos - Nobles
    - Samurai – Warrior Class
    - Peasants – Fishers and Farmers
    - Merchants
  - Japan divided by infighting
    - Conflict between Daimyos
    - Use of Samurai
      - Warriors
      - Code of Bushido
        - Bravery
        - Loyalty
  - Mongol Invasions
    - Kubilai Khan demanded submission
      - Planned invasion of Japan
        - Forced Koreans to build ships for him
    - First Invasion
      - 1274 C.E.
      - Invasion lands fleet destroyed by Tsunami
    - Second Invasion
      - 1281 C.E.
      - Japanese executed Mongol envoys
      - Mongols, Chinese, Koreans
      - Kamikaze
        - Divine Wind
  - Overthrown by Ashikaga
    - Go Daigo
      - Emperor
      - 1338 C.E.
      - Overthrew Kamakura
        - Trying to strengthen Imperial control
      - Overthrown by Takaui
- Ashikaga
  - 1333 – 1573 C.E.
  - Early Periods of Civil War
  - Conflict with Ming China
  - 1467 C.E. Lost effective control of Japan
  - Cultural growth
    - Mixture of cultural traits
      - Buddhism
        - Zen
          - Discipline and oneness
    - Teas Ceremony
      - Chinese Idea
      - Aesthetic
      - Order and decorum
        - Beauty
    - Noh
      - Japanese Theater
        - Costumes, Make-up
        - Refined gestures
          - Rich emotion, meaning, passion
  - 1542
    - Portuguese Arrive in Japan
      - Jesuits bring Christianity
      - Traders bring Guns
  - 1570s
    - Ashikaga Dissolved
    - Thrown into Civil War