

Important Concepts . . .

Preview Review



Social Studies Grade 8

**W3 - Lesson 1: Shaping a Unique
Worldview**

Important Concepts of Grade 8 Social Studies

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Materials Required

Textbook Required
*Worldviews: Contact
and Change*

Social Studies Grade 8
Version 5
Preview/Review W3 - Lesson 1

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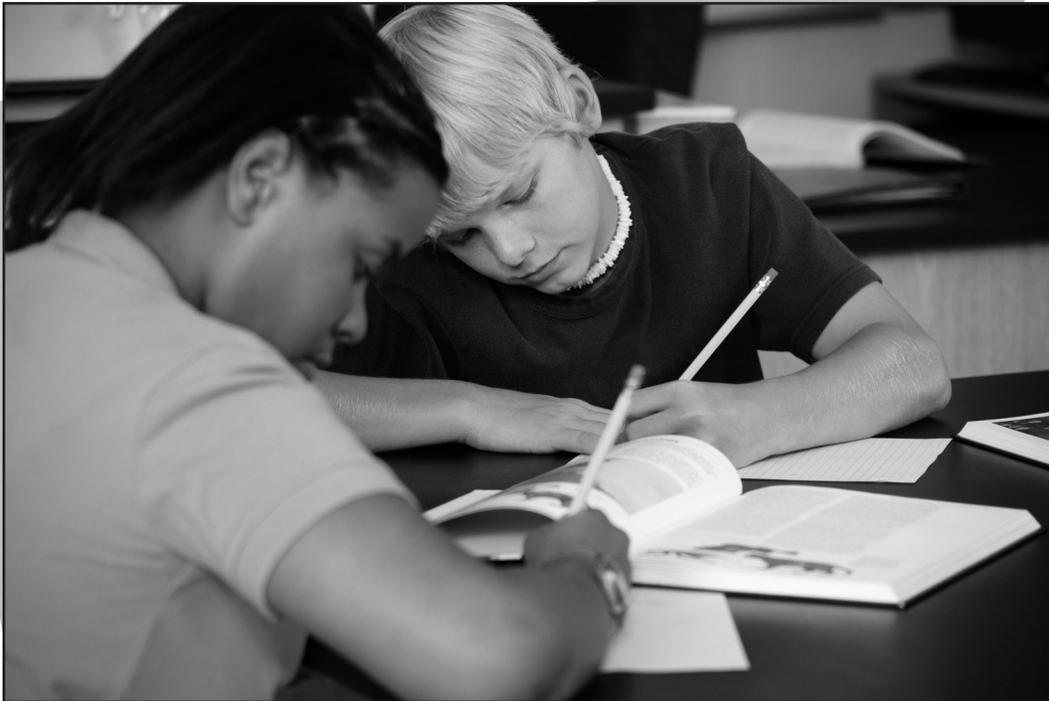
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Preview/Review Concepts for Grade Eight Social Studies



W3 - Lesson 1:

Shaping a Unique Worldview

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson, you should

- understand how the physical geography of Japan impacts its worldview
- understand the ways the natural environment can influence religious practices and values
- realize how Japan's self-sufficiency contributed to the Japanese worldview

GLOSSARY

Ainu – an ethnic group on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido

arable – land that is appropriate for cultivation

archipelago – a group of many islands in a large body of water

assimilation – when an ethnic group loses distinctiveness and becomes absorbed into a majority culture

haiku – a popular Japanese form of poetry developed in the 17th century

homogenous – made up of things that either look the same or are the same

isolated – standing apart or alone

kami – spirits believed to be the original ancestors of an early Japanese clan

kamikaze – a Japanese word, usually translated as divine wind, believed to be a gift from the gods

kamuy – an Ainu word for a spiritual or divine being

kanji – Chinese writing adopted by the Japanese

kana – modern Japanese scripts

matsuri – a Japanese festival

monsoon – a seasonal wind in southern Asia

ritual – a prescribed method for the performance of a religious ceremony

Shinto – the ancient indigenous religion of Japan

stoic – someone seemingly indifferent to emotions

tsunami – a destructive sea wave caused by an earthquake or volcanic eruption

W3 – Lesson 1: Shaping a Unique Worldview

Reading 1: The Land of the Rising Sun

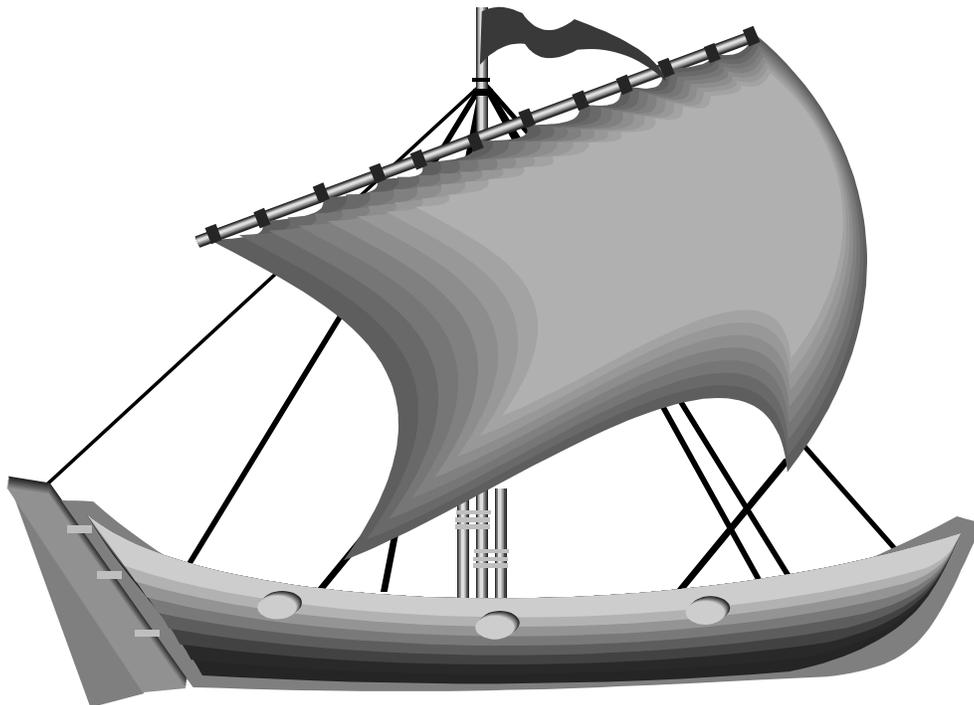
Kono looked down into Hakata Bay and what he saw chilled his blood. As far as he could see, there were Chinese ships filled with Mongol warriors. There were so many ships he could hardly see the water.

Yesterday, Kono and his fellow Japanese warriors had been driven back by the Mongols and now he waited for a new attack. This was an attack he was sure they would lose. Then who would stop the Mongol invasion of Japan?

The next day, a massive typhoon came. This **kamikaze** wind destroyed and scattered the Chinese fleet. The Mongols either died by drowning, in battle, or they returned to China in defeat.

For many years, the people who lived on the Japanese **archipelago** remained **isolated** from the rest of the world. The Japanese believed that Japan was favoured and protected by its gods.

To learn more about the land of the rising sun, read pages 261 to 263, 265, and 266 in your textbook, *Worldviews: Contact and Change*. Then complete Activity 1.



Activity 1: The Land of the Rising Sun

To complete Activity 1, use the list of words and terms provided. Choose the best word(s) to complete each statement, and write the correct word(s) on each of the lines. The words will only be used once. Not all the words will be used. If you are working in a classroom, you may discuss this activity. If you are working individually, complete the activity and check your work with your learning facilitator or teacher.

Alberta	descendants	kamuy	Ontario
archipelago	four	kana	rising sun
arable	habitable	kanji	rituals
coast	isolated	land	three
deities	kamikaze	monsoon	tsunami

1. The kami were the _____ that inhabited Japan.
2. The Japanese called the typhoon that destroyed the Mongol fleet a _____ storm.
3. For centuries, the Japanese described their country as the _____ of the _____.
4. The rulers of Japan were considered the _____ of Amaterasu.
5. Japan is about 60 percent of the size of _____.
6. The _____ areas of Japan with high population density are mainly along the _____.
7. Japan is geographically _____ from its nearest neighbours.
8. Japan is an _____ consisting of _____ main islands and over 3000 smaller islands.
9. The Japanese borrowed the Chinese system of writing called _____.

Reading 2: Nature Shaping a Worldview

For most Japanese, the sun rises in the east out of a blue ocean, and the land of Japan is a beautiful mixture of mountains, waterfalls, and cherry blossoms. The Japanese have always taken pride in their history, religion, and the beauty of their land.

As beautiful as Japan is, there are dangers. The country is located along a tectonic plate that is active with earthquakes and volcanoes. Earthquakes off the coast of Japan often produce **tsunamis** that threaten the people of Japan.

Japan's ancient religion of Shinto is based on the ideal of harmony with nature.

To learn more about the way the Japanese look at the world around them and some of the unique aspects of Japanese culture, read pages 268 to 271 in your textbook, *Worldviews: Contact and Change*. Then complete Activity 2.



Activity 3: Nature Shaping a Worldview

Read each statement carefully. If the statement is true, write **T** on the lines provided. However, if the statement is false, write **F** on the lines provided. **Then rewrite the sentence correctly to make the statement true.** If you are working in a classroom, you may discuss this activity. If you are working individually, complete the activity and check your work with your learning facilitator or teacher.

_____ 1. Apple blossoms are the most beloved flowers among the Japanese.

_____ 2. Japanese writers developed a form of poetry called haiku.

_____ 3. Cherry blossoms represent new beginnings, beauty, and the shortness of beauty and life.

_____ 4. Nature has a dominant role in the culture of the Oglala, Japan's indigenous people.

_____ 5. Many indigenous people consider earth, air, fire, and gas the four key elements of life.

_____ 6. Shinto is the ancient religion of Japan. Shinto is based on the belief that sacred spirits called kana take the form of objects such as mountains, trees, and stones.

_____ 7. The sun goddess Amaterasu is considered the most important kami.

_____ 8. The Japanese refer to festivals as kamidanas.

_____ 9. Japan experiences extremes of nature such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and typhoons.

_____ 10. Because of the constant possibility of a natural disaster, the Japanese have become stoic in their view of nature.

Reading 3: A Self-Sufficient Country

When you live on an island in the largest ocean on the planet, you quickly learn how to survive.

You learn to use the **arable** land to grow crops, and you hope the **monsoon** winds will bring needed rain at the right time.

You share very similar concerns with your neighbours and develop common values and beliefs. Your society becomes **homogenous** as time goes on.

To learn more about how Japan became a self-sufficient society and how they attempted the assimilation of the Ainu people, read pages 274 to 277 and 279 in your textbook, *Worldviews: Contact and Change*. Then complete Activity 3.



Activity 3: A Self-Sufficient Country

Answer the following questions in complete sentences. If you are working in a classroom, you may discuss this activity. If you are working individually, complete the activity and check your work with your learning facilitator or teacher.

1. How did Japan's environment meet the basic needs of the people and allow them to be self-sufficient?

2. What role did rice play in Japanese society?

3. What other foods (other than rice) were part of the Japanese diet?

4. Why did the Japanese consider themselves a homogenous society?

5. What did the Japanese do after they defeated the Ainu?

W3 – Lesson 1: Shaping a Unique Worldview Review Assignment

Complete pages 9 to 11 as your review assignment for this lesson. If you are working in a classroom, you may be reviewing this together. If you are working individually, complete the assignment and check your work with your learning facilitator or teacher. Use your notes and work from this lesson to help you. This assignment is worth 25 marks.

Section A: Matching

Match the word on the left with the correct definition or idea on the right. Write the letter on the appropriate line to indicate your choice. This section is worth 10 marks.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| _____ isolated | A. Japanese festivals |
| _____ archipelago | B. Ainu gods |
| _____ rituals | C. winds that bring rain |
| _____ haiku | D. special ceremonies |
| _____ kamuy | E. a destructive sea wave |
| _____ matsuri | F. to be indifferent to emotions |
| _____ tsunami | G. a group of islands |
| _____ stoic | H. absorbing one culture into another |
| _____ monsoon | I. standing or being apart |
| _____ assimilation | J. a form of Japanese poetry |

Section B: Fill-in-the-Blanks

To finish the following section, you must complete each statement by writing the correct word(s) on the line provided. This section is worth 10 marks.

1. The Japanese borrowed the Chinese system of writing called _____.
2. Over time, the Japanese developed a system of writing called _____.
3. Nature has a _____ role in the culture of the Ainu.
4. _____ is based on the belief that sacred spirits called _____ take the form of objects in nature.
5. Violent tropical storms known as _____ develop over the Pacific Ocean.
6. Rice is the main food in Japan. Growing rice is _____ intensive.
7. Another Japanese staple food harvested from the sea is _____.
8. The people of Japan have long thought of themselves as a _____ society.
9. The word “*ainu*” means _____ in the Ainu language.

Section C: Short Answers

Answer the following questions in complete sentences. The value of each question is indicated at the end of the question. This section is worth 5 marks.

1. Identify **two** things that cherry blossoms represent to the Japanese. (1 mark)

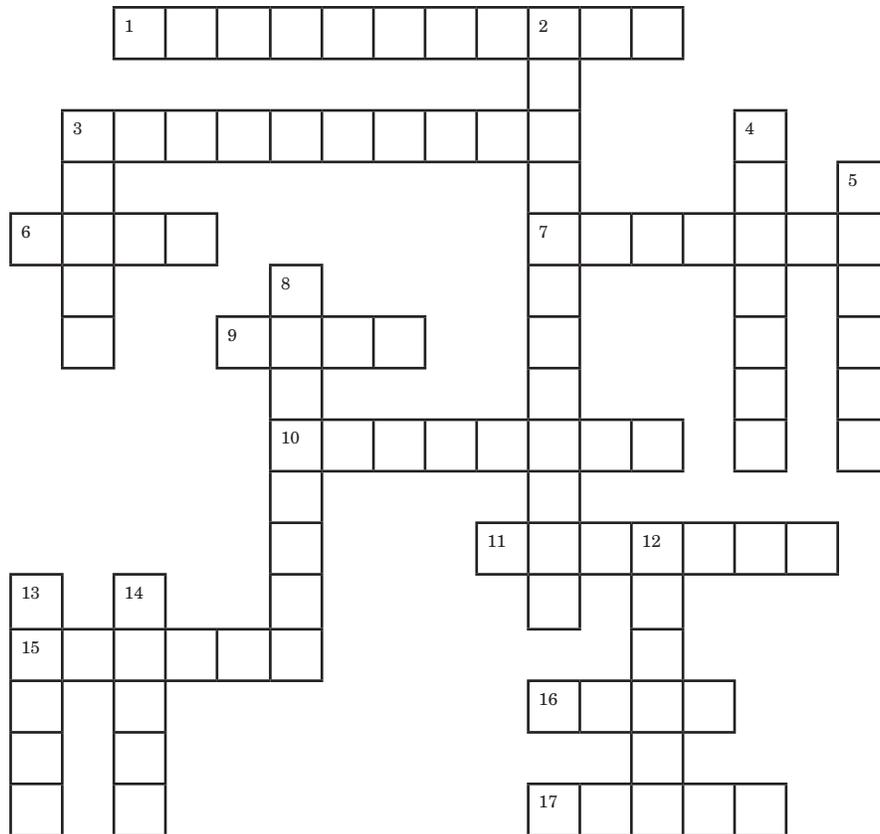
2. In what ways were the Japanese a self-sufficient people? Provide at least **two** ways. (2 marks)

3. How would this self-sufficiency affect the Japanese worldview? (2 marks)

Total: _____
25 marks

Shaping a Unique Worldview Bonus Crossword Puzzle

Use the clues below to identify the word(s) in the crossword puzzle.



Across

- 1. a group of many islands
- 3. things that look or are the same
- 6. an ethnic group on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido
- 7. a Japanese festival
- 9. spirits believed to be the original ancestors of the Japanese
- 10. standing apart or alone
- 11. a seasonal wind in southern Asia
- 15. land that is appropriate for cultivation
- 16. modern Japanese scripts
- 17. to be indifferent to emotions

Down

- 2. when an ethnic group is absorbed into a majority culture
- 3. a Japanese form of poetry
- 4. a destructive sea wave
- 5. a prescribed order of events at a religious ceremony
- 8. a Japanese word meaning “divine wind”
- 12. an ancient Japanese religion
- 13. the Ainu word for a spiritual being
- 14. Chinese writing adopted by the Japanese



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