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## SS 407

### Introduction

This unit is designed to acquaint students with the history of Japan, and emphasizes vocabulary as well as historical content.

The unit is made up of 15 pages of text. Each page of text has a vocabulary list and comprehension questions.

Every two pages of text has a puzzle page which includes a crossword and word search puzzles.



### Contents

#### History text (Pages 5-19)

Fifteen pages of reproducible text

#### Crosswords and word search puzzles (Pages 20-28)

Answers to the puzzle pages.

#### Vocabulary Tests (Pages 29-31)

Five matching tests.

#### Multiple Choice Test

#### (Pages 32-33)

Thirty multiple-choice questions.

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# The Shogunate

Since the beginning of its history, the emperor of Japan has come from only one family. The Japanese believed that the first emperor was the descendant of the Sun God. Because of the power of the clans, the emperor often had very little power. The Fujiwara clan was the first clan to control the emperor. The Fujiwaras established the custom that the emperor could marry only a Fujiwara. The power of the Fujiwaras over the emperor lasted for 400 years. It was during this time that Japan established a capital city at Nara. A short time later it was moved to Kyoto.

Military power remained in the hands of the clans. When the Japanese finally conquered the Ainu on the island of Honshu in the 10th Century they had to keep armies to protect their castles from the Ainu. Out of this developed the professional soldier or **samurai**.

In 1180 the Gempei war began between the Taira and Minamoto clans to see who was going to control the emperor. The Minamotos won under the leadership of Yoritomo. The emperor was persuaded to give Yoritomo the title of **shogun**, or supreme military leader. Yoritomo became the real ruler of Japan and was the first to rule over all of Kyushu, Shikoku and Honshu.

While the emperor remained in Kyoto, Yoritomo moved the real government of Japan to a city near present-day Tokyo. It was here that Yoritomo established Japanese feudalism in which most of the power was held by the clan leaders who owned most of the land in Japan. The clan leaders were called **daimyo**. Yoritomo kept the various clans from fighting and maintained order.

The Minamoto **shogunate** lasted until



Hideyoshi.

1336. It was during this period that the Mongols attempted to invade Japan. A *typhoon* destroyed the invasion fleet of the Mongols. This was the only attempt to invade Japan.

The power of the Minamotos ended in 1336 and a new clan took the powers of the shogun. The Ashikaga shogunate lasted until 1568. The Ashikagas were never powerful enough to control the local clan leaders and there was much fighting during this period.

## Vocabulary

*typhoon*: (n.) a hurricane.

**samurai**: (n.) a Japanese warrior.

**daimyo**: (n.) a Japanese lord or member of the aristocracy.

**shogun**: (n.) the military leader of Japan.

**shogunate**: (n.) the office of the shogun.

## Comprehension Questions

1. What was the role of the shogun?
2. Describe how Japan was ruled.