The Influence of Neighboring Cultures on Japan

The island country of Japan lies just off the eastern coast of the Asian mainland. Japan's culture has been enriched by borrowing from other places in Asia. Many cultural ideas traveled to Japan by way of the Korean Peninsula. Some of these ideas had originally come from China and India.

20.2 Cultural Influences of India, China, and Korea on Japan

1. By the time Prince Shotoku came to power, in 593 C.E. ______________ from the mainland had been reaching Japan for hundreds of ______________. Craftspeople from Korea brought knowledge of ______________ casting, advanced ______________, Confucianism, and ______________.

2. Japan at this time was an agricultural society. Japan was far from being unified, power was divided among clans called __________, but one family grew powerful enough to have much of the control of Japan. Prince Shotoku came from this line of rulers.

3. Under Shotoku (and later rulers) Japan took an active interest in Korean and ______________ culture. Thousands of people were sent to ___________ and when they returned they ___________ back what they had learned. As a result Japan acquired new ideas in ______________, the arts, architecture and ______________. Japan ______________ new ideas with their ___________ traditions to create a ______________ culture.

20.3 Government: Imitating the Chinese System

4. Starting with Shotoku Japanese rulers began to change to the ___________ style of Government. He created a set of ______________ for government officials. According to the Seventeen Article Constitution the ___________ was the country's supreme ruler. Later rulers created the Taika Reforms to ___________ the central government. So control of the land was taken away from the ______leaders and given to the emperor. The emperor
the land to all free men and women and the people had to pay heavy
_________________________ to support the imperial government.

5. By the ninth century however, all this changed as a powerful ____________ developed.
   This meant members of noble families held the high positions in the ____________.

20.4 City Design: Adapting Chinese Ideas for a Magnificent City

6. With a strong ____________ government Japan needed a new capital city. So in 710
   the imperial government built a Chinese style capital in ________. It was built after
   China’s capital, Chang’an, except it did not have a ____________ to protect against
   enemies.

20.5 Religion: Buddhism Comes to Japan by Way of China and Korea

7. Buddhism began in ____________ in the 500’s C.E. and came to Japan from China by way
   of Korea.

8. Japan’s original religion was ____________, which expresses the love and respect of the
   Japanese for ____________. Buddhism did not replace Shinto, instead both religions thrived
   and even blended ____________. Buddhists built shrines to ____________ and Shintoists enshrined ____________.
20.6 Writing: Applying Chinese Characters to the Japanese Language

9. Ancient Japanese was only a __________ language. The Japanese did not have a writing system of their __________. Written documents were in Chinese, a language the Japanese had learned from __________ scholars. Over time the Japanese adopted Chinese characters to write their own language. They used __________ to keep records, record legends and develop their own literature. The two languages had different grammar, sounds, and pronunciations, however. So by 900 C.E. the Japanese invented __________ or borrowed letters. This allowed them to spell out the sounds of their own language.

20.7 Literature: Adapting Chinese Poetic Form

10. The earliest literary works in Japan are __________. They are based on the poetic forms of Chinese poetry. The Japanese poets developed a form of poetry based on the Chinese that is called __________.
20.8 Sculpture: Carving Techniques

Travel to Japan from China and Korea

11. Like Buddhism, new ____________ and subjects of sculpture came to Japan from Korea and China. These ideas actually began in ____________. Some early examples archeologists have found include clay figures of ____________, horses, robed ladies, and objects like houses or boats. They were probably meant to accompany or ____________ the dead.

20.9 Architecture: Adapting Temple Designs with Roots in India and China

12. New forms of temple design came to Japan from ____________ by way of China. In India, Buddhist monasteries featured shrines called ____________ with roofs shaped like upside-down bowls. The Chinese replaced the bowl shape with a series of stories and curved roofs, creating structures called ____________. When Buddhism arrived the Japanese adopted the ____________ design.

20.10 Music: Adopting New Music and Instruments from China

13. Japan’s native music consisted of chanted ____________ war songs, folk songs, and Shinto ____________. All were ____________ using just a few notes. As contacts with the Asian mainland increased, the Japanese ____________ music from the rest of Asia, especially ____________. They then adopted the instruments required to play the new music.