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Introduction to Japanese Religions

Intro: In this section students will learn how about Japanese religion and how Shintoism has laid the framework for Japanese society. They will learn how, through this mythology, 85% of wives control the household, and how hidden power is more powerful. Students will learn the importance of Shinto in Japanese culture and how it eventually clashes with Buddhism. Buddhism is eventually adopted as the state religion. By the end of this lesson students will know more in depth about Japanese mythology and Buddhism, and the formation of the Japanese religious state.

-Through readings, lecture, worksheets, and photo viewing students will become more knowledgeable on religion in Japan.

Main Points:

-Japanese mythology was the foundation for Japanese life before Buddhism moved in, and in some ways still plays a role.

-Buddhism and Shinto were in opposition, and eventually, in the 6th century, Buddhism becomes the state religion, and in the 19th century Shintoism makes a comeback.

Objectives:

-Know about Shinto and Buddhist religions

-Know the doctrine of the Shinto religion and some symbolism in Shinto such as *Torii*, *kami*, and *kagami*.

-Know how Buddhism got to Japan and when it was instated.

Teaching Methods:

When teaching Japanese religions in class students will be required to do some reading on the subject before class. The students will then participate in a lecture/discussion on the topics of Shintoism vs. Buddhism (differences-similarities). Then the students will be viewing pictures of Japanese architecture that deals with Shinto, such as *Torii's* or *Pagoda's*. Students will then be required to finish a worksheet handed out in class for homework.

Bibliography:

Student Materials

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shinto>

This site contains information on Shintoism and also goes over the Buddhism/Shinto conflict

<http://www.religioustolerance.org/shinto.htm>

This site contains all the information one would need to understand the Shinto religion.

Class lecture by myself Brendan Malone

Beck, Roger, Linda Black, Phillip Naylor, Dahia Ibo Shabaka. World History

Patterns of Interaction. Evanston, Illinois: 1999.

Kasahara, Kazuo. A History of Japanese Religion. Tokyo, Kosei Pub. 2002.

Teaching Materials

Beck, Roger, Linda Black, Phillip Naylor, Dahia Ibo Shabaka. World History Patterns of Interaction, Annotated Teacher's Edition. Evanston, Illinois: 1999.

Ebrey, Patricia Buckley, Anne Walthall, James Palais. East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History. Boston, MA: 2006

Kasahara, Kazuo. A History of Japanese Religion. Tokyo, Kosei Pub. 2002.

Presentation by Dr. Joseph Hara, Japanese language professor at the University of Toledo.

This lesson is meant for one 45 minute class period split into two sections, lecture/discussion, and viewing pictures.

Japanese Religions

Name: _____

1. What is another name for Japanese mythology? _____
2. What is the Shinto name for a gateway which is symbolic of the male and female gods and their children? _____
3. What are the 'Four Affirmations' in Shinto religion?

4. In which century did the Japanese courts accept Buddhism as their religion _____, and when was Shinto reinstated _____?
5. Through which country was Buddhism brought to Japan? _____
6. What was the name of the goddess sibling who "controls" the nation?

7. What percentage of people in Japan claim a religion? _____
8. True or False? Japanese lifestyle and culture is religious based? _____