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Teaching About East Asia
Tuesday, March 10, 2009
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Title: East Asian TIP: Feudalism Comparison (7th Grade)

Purpose: In the Middle Ages unit, students will review information they learned in the Asia unit about feudalism in Japan. Using that information and readings from their text, they will work in small groups to fill in the following chart. After adequate time, the class will review the concepts. As a follow-up, the students will write a one paragraph summary comparing feudalism in Japan and Europe during the Middle Ages.

Rationale: Students will begin making connections with how the concept of feudalism was used by different civilizations at different periods in history.

Grade level & Standards/benchmarks this would satisfy:

- State of Ohio Standard/Benchmark: 7th Grade
 - Feudalism and Transitions: 3. Describe the conditions that gave rise to feudalism, as well as political, economic and social characteristics of feudalism, in Asia and Europe.

Goals/objectives (specific to this lesson):

- Students will retrieve prior knowledge of the unit on Asia we studied earlier in the school year.
- Students will begin to make comparisons between diverse groups of people.
- Students will see the characteristics of feudalism and how different societies used it.

Essential questions:

- How do social classes impact the roles people play in a society?
- What similarities are there between people from different places and times in history?
- What role did feudalism play in the development of modern Europe and modern Japan?
- What role did feudalism play in the development of government in Europe and Japan?

Materials/Resources:

- Asia & Medieval Europe packets (provided by teacher).
- OR copies of handout (included in this lesson).
- Access to textbook or other writing dealing with feudal Japan and Medieval Europe.

Activities (by day if multiple days are used)

- Students will have completed a reading guide about Japanese society (not included in this TIP) during the Asia unit.
- Prior to completing the grid, students will have completed a reading guide about the Early Middle Ages (not included in this TIP), and will have completed a visual diagram about Feudal Society in Europe.
- As a class, the teacher will lead the students in filling in the grid.
 - The unit on Japan was discussed several months ago, so this will also be a review of a concept from earlier in the year.
 - The teacher will guide the students as they fill out the grid, making comparisons as appropriate.

Assessment:

- For homework, assign the students to write one paragraph summarizing the information in the grid. Explain to the students that they are to use full sentences to show they understand and can make comparisons using the information. They may not just copy the sentences, but need to use this as practice for using a source to make conclusions.

Europe	Feudal Concept	Japan
	Before Feudalism	
	Government Type	
	Economy and Trade	
	Social System	
	Growth of Cities	

Summary:

Completed example:

800's Europe 1500's	Feudal Concept	800's Japan 1500's
<p>Germanic tribes ruled. Sometimes strong kings or emperors ruled. Pope was gaining power.</p>	<p>Before Feudalism</p>	<p>Storytellers Emperor ruled and united some of Japan. Grew into some chaos because people were fighting over power and land</p>
<p>Monarchies ruled. Weak kings lead to weak monarchies. Nobles started getting more power.</p>	<p>Government Type</p>	<p>Emperor was weak and losing power. Power was given to regional leaders (who were nobles)</p>
<p>Some trade, but mostly farming. Skilled workers like artisans start to form guilds.</p>	<p>Economy and Trade</p>	<p>Mostly farmers. Skilled workers in cities. Power and wealth based on land you own.</p>
<p>King is highest but not much power. Nobles are next. They ruled manors or fiefs. Got land from king. (protection) (vassal) land Knights-warriors (usually nobles) Peasants & Serfs are workers</p>	<p>Social System</p>	<p>Emperor is highest but has little power. Shogun is military leader. Daimyo were nobles. Gave loyalty to both Emperor and Shogun. (land vassal) (protection) Samurai-warriors Peasants & Merchants</p>
<p>Got power. People went to cities for jobs & trade. Ex: Venice and Flanders</p>	<p>Growth of Cities</p>	<p>Cities like Kyoto, Nara, and Edo (Tokyo) grew as regional capitals. Also trade.</p>

Summary: