A History of Knowledge

Oldest Knowledge
What the Sumerians knew
What the Babylonians knew
What the Hittites knew
What the Persians knew
What the Egyptians knew
What the Indians knew
What the Chinese knew
What the Greeks knew
What the Phoenicians knew
What the Romans knew
What the Barbarians knew

What the Jews knew
What the Christians knew
Tang & Sung China
What the Japanese knew
What the Muslims knew
The Middle Ages
Ming & Manchu China
The Renaissance
The Industrial Age
The Victorian Age
The Modern World
What is the sound of one hand clapping?
(Hakuin)
What the Japanese knew

• Bibliography:
  – Penelope Mason: History Of Japanese Art (1993)
  – Paul Varley: Japanese Culture (1973)
What the Japanese knew

- Insert pictures of Asian Art Museum
What the Japanese knew

• Jomon culture (10,000 BC - 300 BC
  – Hunter-gatherers
  – Stone circles
  – Terracotta vases
What the Japanese knew

- Jomon culture (10,000 BC - 300 BC)
  - Terracotta vases
  - Female clay figurines
  - First pottery in the world (46 pottery shards from a single vessel found at the Odai-Yamamoto site dating from 16500 BC)
What the Japanese knew

- Jomon culture (10,000 BC - 300 BC)
  - Clay figurines

1000 BC
Tokyo Museum

1000-300 BC
Tokyo Museum

2500-1500 BC
Tokyo Museum
What the Japanese knew

- Jomon culture (10,000 BC - 300 BC)
  - Sculpture

Japan, 2500-1500 BC
San Francisco Asian Art Museum

Jomon pottery
Tokyo Museum
What the Japanese knew

• Yayoi culture (300 BC - 300 AD)
  – 100 BC: rice and iron are imported into Japan by the migration of the Yayoi (related to the Mongols), who also bring a new language and a new religion
  – 0 AD: Shintoism becomes the national “religion” and the "emperor" is merely an official in charge of performing Shinto rituals and symbolic ceremonies
  – 239: first visit by a Japanese envoy to China
What the Japanese knew

• Japan and the Japanese language
  – Yamato and later (7th c) Nihon (Chinese characters for “sun” and “source”)
  – Pronounced as “Jihpen” by the Chinese, as “Japon” by Marco Polo
  – Japanese language: polysyllabic (unlike Chinese), highly inflected (unlike Chinese),
What the Japanese knew

• Shintoism as natural philosophy
  – A set of rituals/legends explaining the relationship between the human world and the forces of nature
  – Emphasis on nature, cleanliness, purity, order, sincerity, tranquility
• Righteous behavior, respect for nature
• Nature is the manifestation of the divine
• Most important festivals are celebrations of the beauty of nature
• Gardens reproduce scenes of nature for domestic life
What the Japanese knew

• Shinto Polytheism
  – Pantheon of spirits ("kami") personifying aspects of the natural world
  – Yorozu-yomi: there are gods for everything (food, mountains, rivers, rocks)
  – 800,000 gods, mostly the deified heroes of the nation
  – A religion to deal with the everyday problems and issues of people
  – Amaterasu (sun goddess) is the highest god
  – Susano-no-mikoto (Amaterasu’s brother) descended from heaven to roam the earth
What the Japanese knew

- Shinto Polytheism
  - Humans depend upon the spirits (kami), which are features of Nature (such as mountains, fertility, sun) and human ancestors
  - A kami is not the feature itself (eg, the mountain), but rather the spirit of that feature
  - Humans can affect Nature by properly honoring the gods/spirits
  - Humans become impure through their participation in society and they purify themselves by worshipping the spirits
  - Death is evil (no shinto funeral)
  - Shinto priests were fortune-tellers and magicians
What the Japanese knew

- Shinto
  - Main Shinto ritual: purification
  - No ethical code but general principle of “makoto” (sincerity)
  - Shinto deities do dwell in heaven but in the surrounding nature
  - Shintoists do not worship the heavens but the surrounding nature
  - Reaching outward not upward
What the Japanese knew

• Shinto
  – Ise Shrine (main monument to the sun goddess Amaterasu, rebuilt every 20 years)
  – Shinto buildings do not dominate the surrounding nature, they are part of it
  – Shinto monuments are non-monumental
  – Emphasis on the roof, which is horizontal
  – The garden is a microcosm of nature
What the Japanese knew

• Shintoist shrine
  – Gate of the Gods (Torii) admit mortals to the realm of the divine
  – Blessed by emperor
  – Entering a shrine (divine territory) is an act of purification

Torii of Ise
What the Japanese knew

- Yayoi culture (300 BC - 300 AD)
  - Rice cultivation
    - Systems of irrigation and water regulation
    - Granaries
    - New farming tools
    - Population boom
    - Increase in number of villages
    - Large agricultural communities
    - Defensive structures

2nd c AD, Tokyo Museum
What the Japanese knew

• Yayoi culture (300 BC - 300 AD)
  – Rice cultivation
    • Yoshinogari village (2nd c BC - 1st c AD)
      – 300 pit dwellings
      – Two defensive moats
      – Four watchtowers
What the Japanese knew

- **Yayoi culture (300 BC - 300 AD)**
  - Iron
    - Bronze weapons
    - Mirrors
    - Iron tools

Bronze mirror (4th c. AD)
Tokyo Museum

Dotaku (bronze bell) 3rd c. AD
(Tokyo Museum)
What the Japanese knew

• The tumuli ("kofun") era (300-710)
  – The Korean influence
    • Silla unites Korea in 668
    • Koreans emigrate to Japan (scribes, craftsmen, artists)
What the Japanese knew

- The tumuli ("kofun") era (300-710)
  - Tomb burial (imported from Korea?)
  - Oldest histories of Japan are composed
    - 712: the collection of tales "Kojiki", written in Chinese ideographs to represent Japanese words (record of ancient times till 500 AD)
    - 720: the "Nihon shoki", written in Chinese (history of Japan in the 6th and 7th c.)
What the Japanese knew

- The tumuli ("kofun") era (300-710)
  - Kofun

Tomb of Emperor Nintoku, Osaka, 5th century.

Shibayama Kofun and Haniwa Museum (Narita)
What the Japanese knew

- The tumuli ("kofun") era (300-710)
  - Clay cylinders ("haniwa")

House-shaped haniwas (6th c AD).
(Tokyo National Museum)
What the Japanese knew

- The tumuli ("kofun") era (300-710)
  - Clay figurines ("haniwa"): no religious significance (secular art)

Warrior haniwa 4th-6th c AD
San Francisco Asian Art Museum

Haniwa 6th c AD
Tokyo Museum
What the Japanese knew

• The tumuli (“kofun”) era (300-710)
  – Clay figurines (“haniwa”)

Haniwa 6th c AD
Tokyo Museum
What the Japanese knew

• The tumuli ("kofun") era (300-710)
  – Reconstructed kofun ceremony based on haniwa figures: shamaness surrounded by musicians

(Jonan Historical Museum, Tsukawara. Kyushu)
What the Japanese knew

- Prince Shotoku Taishi (b574)
  - “Constitution” (Kempo)
  - Social harmony (wa)
  - Government by consensus
  - Confucianism (ren, yi, li, etc)
  - Buddhism as the way to a universal state
What the Japanese knew

• After Shotoku
  – “Taika” reform (645): land reform after the Tang reform
    • All land nationalized (all citizens are subjects of the emperor)
    • Equal distribution of land among subjects
    • But exceptions for the aristocracy
  – “Taiho” code (702): structure of government and law code
What the Japanese knew

• The tumuli ("kofun") era (300-710)
  – The Buddhist revolution
    • 538: the Korean kingdom of Paekche dispatches a delegation to introduce Buddhism to the Japanese emperor
    • 604: prince Shotoku issues a Chinese-style constitution (Kenpo Jushichijo), based on Confucian principles, which de facto inaugurates the Japanese empire
    • 605: Shotoku declares Buddhism and Confucianism state religions of Japan
    • 607: Shotoku builds the Buddhist temple Horyuji in the Asuka valley
What the Japanese knew

• The tumuli (“kofun”) era (300-710)
  – The Buddhist revolution
    • Complementary to Shinto
      – Shinto concerned with events in this life, Buddhism concerned with life after death
      – Shinto positive attitude vs Buddhist pessimism
      – Shinto’s love of simple nature vs Buddhism endless suffering of humans
      – Shinto’s teaching of living in harmony with nature vs Buddhist teaching of striving for salvation
    – Rituals of birth and marriage are Shinto, rituals of death are Buddhist
What the Japanese knew

• The tumuli ("kofun") era (300-710)
  – The Buddhist revolution
    • The introduction of Buddhism marks the first major assimilation of foreign culture
    • In order to read Buddhist scriptures, Japan adopts the Chinese alphabet (kanji)
    • Cremation replaces tomb burial
    • Religion, art, literature, etc come from China either directly or via Korea
    • Shinto becomes a nationalist ideology
    • Shinto becomes non-exclusive: a shintoist can be a buddhist, a catholic, …
What the Japanese knew

- The tumuli ("kofun") era (300-710)
  - Buddhist architecture
    - Asukadera (596)
    - Shitennoji (593)
    - Layout derived from Korean temples
    - Chumon: main gate
    - Pagoda: multi-story building dedicated to a reliquary (modeled after Indian stupa)
    - Kondo: golden hall dedicated to active worship
What the Japanese knew

- Asukadera (596)
- Shitennoji (593)

Asukadera (596) in the first Buddhist temple (593)

Tamamushi miniature kondo in Horyuji, Nara (650)

Shitennoji, Osaka

the first Buddhist temple (593)
What the Japanese knew

• The tumuli ("kofun") era (300-710)
  – Horyu-ji (7th c)
What the Japanese knew

- The tumuli ("kofun") era (300-710)
  - Buddhist sculpture (busshi)

- Main sculptor: Kuratsukuri-no-Tori (descendant of Korean immigrants)

Gilt bronze statue of Asuka Daibutsu in Asukadera (606)

Gilt bronze Yakushi in Horyuji, Nara (607)

Gilt bronze Shaka Triad in Horyuji, Nara (623)
What the Japanese knew

• The tumuli ("kofun") era (300-710)
  – Buddhist sculpture (busshi)

Buddha 7th c
Tokyo Museum

Gilt wood Yumedono Kannon
Horyuji, Nara
What the Japanese knew

• The tumuli (“kofun”) era (300-710)
  – Buddhist sculpture (busshi)

  Counterclockwise from the east:
  • Yuima discussing with an enlightened Boddhisattva, Monju
  • Death of the historical Buddha and nirvana
  • Division of the relics of the Buddha
  • The paradise of the future Buddha, Miroku

Terracotta tableux in Horyuji’s pagoda, Nara
What the Japanese knew

• The tumuli ("kofun") era (300-710)
  – Buddhist painting

Tamamushi-no-zushi portable lacquered-wood shrine in Horyuji, Nara (650), miniature kondo
What the Japanese knew

• Shinto as political philosophy
  – Japan as a divine country
    • Shinto as the basis for imperial institutions
    • Shinto is a religious form of Japanese patriotism
    • Japan and the Japanese people exist by divine creation
    • The emperor is a descendant of the gods
    • Imperial symbols of god-bestowed authority: jewel, sword, mirror
    • Ancient Japanese mythology
What the Japanese knew

• Kojiki (Chronicles of Ancient Events) and Nihongi/Nihon Shoki (Chronicles of Japan)
  – In the beginning were the kami (primitive gods)
  – Izanagi (male) and Izanami (female) gave birth to the land of Japan
  – Izanami died
  – Amaterasu originated from Izanagi’s left eye
  – Ninigi, the first emperor of Japan, was Amaterasu’s grandson
Japanese genealogy

FIRST EMPEROR

神武天皇 Jimmu

玉依姫 Tamayori

鵜草葺合命 Ugaya-Hukiaezu

豊玉姫 Toyotama

火遠理命 Hoori

火照命 Hoderi

火須勢理命 Hosuseri

遥遙芸命 Ninigi

天照大御神 Amaterasu

須佐之男命 Susanoto

大山津美神 Oyamatsumi

大綿津美神 Owadatsumi

伊耶那岐 Izanagi

伊耶那美 Izanami

高木神 Takagi-no-Kami

萬幡豊秋津姬命 Toyo-Akitsu

FIRST EMPEROR
What the Japanese knew

• Nara era (710-794)
  – 710: Japan's capital is moved from Fujiwara to Nara
    • Nara modeled after China's capital Changan/Xian
    • First major urban center of Japan
  – 752: Japan's emperor Shomu founds the temple Todaiji in Nara (largest wooden building in the world) with a colossal Buddha inside and a treasury of 10,000 art objects from all over the world
  – 794: emperor Kammu moves the capital to Heian-kyo (Kyoto)
What the Japanese knew

- Nara era (710-794)
  - Unification of the country under Buddhist ideology
  - Buddhism as protector of the state
  - Peak of Chinese influence
  - Boom of visual and written arts
  - What the Japanese knew: Chinese
  - Religion, art, literature, etc come from China either directly or via Korea
  - Main difference: no Tang-style meritocracy in government (aristocratic rule only)
What the Japanese knew

• Character of Japanese society
  – Holiness of beauty (as opposed to beauty of holiness)
  – Cult of aesthetic and moral values (as opposed to aesthetic and moral values expressed in cults)
  – Two-fold structure of consciousness
    • Omote:` outward consciousness (social behavior)
    • Ura: inward consciousness
  – Primacy of community over individuality
What the Japanese knew

- Six Buddhist schools of Nara
  - Kusha (625): Mahayana Buddhism
  - Hosso (653): consciousness is the only reality
  - Kegon: Hinayana (based on The Avatamsaka Sutra or Kegonkyo), ideological foundation of the unity of the state (each individual mirrors every other and every individual participates with each other)
  - Jojitsu and Sanron: Nagarjuna’s philosophy
  - Ritsu (754): Buddhist monastic discipline (vinaya)
What the Japanese knew

• Nara era (710-794)
  – Nara’s Buddhist temples
  – Kofuku-ji (720): not only worship but also monastic learning
  – Todai-ji (752): symbol of centralized power of the emperor
  – Toshodai-ji (9th c)
  – Sculptures: realism
What the Japanese knew

Nara era (710 - 794)

– Todai-ji (752)

Shukongojin (733) in the Hokkedo of Todai-ji, Nara

Todai-ji: Daibutsuden, largest wooden building in the world, Nara

Fukukenjaku Kannon, Todai-ji, Nara

Todaiji, Nara

Shukongojin (733) in the Hokkedo of Todai-ji, Nara
What the Japanese knew

• Nara era (710-794)
  – Painting: emergence of the “emaki” (rolled scroll with text and illustration, more narrative than the Chinese version)

“E-inga kyo”
Illustrated Sutra of Cause and Effect
Jobon Rendai-ji in Kyoto
What the Japanese knew

- Nara era (710-794)
  - Painting

Kichijouten, 8th c.
Yakushiji, Nara
What the Japanese knew

- Nara era (710-794)
  - “Manyoshu” (76#)
    - Anthology of 4,500 poems
    - Written by all social classes
    - Preference for short verse (31-syllable “waka”)
    - Preference for the frail, ephemeral, perishable qualities of nature
    - Preference for autumn, followed by spring
    - Kakinomoto no Itomaro
  - “Kaifuso”: anthology of Chinese poetry by Japanese poets
What the Japanese knew

• Heian/Kyoto Period (794-1192 AD)
  – 794: Capital moved to Kyoto to curtail political influence of Buddhist schools
  – 804: The Buddhist monk Saicho (Dengyo Daishi) introduces the Tendai school
  – 806: The monk Kukai (Kobo Daishi) introduces the Shingon (Tantric) school
  – 838: Last mission to China
  – 1050: Rise of the military class (samurai)
  – 1175: Shinran introduces the Jodo (Pure Land) school of Buddhism
  – 1191: Rinzai Zen Buddhism is introduced in Japan by the monk Eisai of Kamakura and becomes popular among the samurai
What the Japanese knew

• Heian/Kyoto Period (795-1192 AD)
  – Long period of peace
  – Population: 5 million
  – Cultural boom
  – Zeitgeist and aesthetic largely forged by the women of the court
  – Tenno ("Divine Emperor") is both Confucian and Shinto: he rules by virtue of the Mandate of Heaven and by legitimate descent from the Shinto Sun Goddess, Amaterasu
  – Government structure borrowed from Tang China
  – Loose confederation of feuds
  – Insei government (1086-1221): cloistered emperors
What the Japanese knew

• Heian/Kyoto Period (795-1192 AD)
  – Polygamy widespread
  – Typical age of arranged marriages: 14 and 12
  – The main bride typically from a higher rank (marriage as a tool for men to advance their children in social status)
  – Noble women not supposed to be seen outside the palace of their father or husband
What the Japanese knew

• Kukai/ Kobo Daishi (806)
  – Founder of Shingon (Tantric) school of Buddhism
  – Centered around the cosmic Buddha Vairocana
  – Large pantheon of deities (Shinto gods are incarnations of Buddha)
  – Mantras to evoke Buddha (recitation not meditation)
  – Practices esoteric incantations to achieve enlightenment in one's lifetime
  – Even plants can attain Buddhahood
What the Japanese knew

- Kukai/ Kobo Daishi (806)
  - Ryobu Shinto (“dual shinto”)
  - Synthesis of Shinto and Buddhism
  - The sun-deity Amaterasu is the manifestation of the esoteric dharmakaya Buddha Dainichi/Birushanaa, the quintessential Buddha of Shingon
  - Native gods (kami) as manifestations of Buddha
What the Japanese knew

- Shingon/ Esoteric Buddhism
  - Mahayana/ Tantric
  - Emphasis on spells/mantras/shingon
  - Emphasis on mandalas
  - Cosmic Buddha Vairochana/Dainichi (written with the characters for “big sun”, i.e. related to the sun goddess Amaterasu)
  - Politically most influential on the Heian court
What the Japanese knew

• Shingon/Esoteric Buddhism
  – Vajradhatu mandala ("diamond" mandala, kongokai) and Garbhadhatu mandala ("womb" mandala, taizokai)
What the Japanese knew

• Tendai Buddhism
  – Mahayana
  – Lotus Sutra
  – Original enlightenment (hongaku): all beings can attain Buddha because all beings already have Buddha-nature
What the Japanese knew

• Tendai Buddhism
  – Brahma and Indra were incorporated in the Buddhist pantheon as assistants of Buddha

Brahma (Bonten) and Indra (Taishakuten) in dry lacquer from Kofuku-ji Nara, 9th c, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco
What the Japanese knew

• Heian/Kyoto Period (794-1192 AD)
  – Decline of Tang dynasty in China
  – Official relations with China are severed
  – End of Chinese influence on Japan
What the Japanese knew

• Heian/Kyoto Period (794-1192 AD)
  – Kana: syllabary of fifty symbols (complemented by Chinese characters)
  – Poetry exclusive to the court
  – Emphasis on refinement/miyabi
What the Japanese knew

- **Heian/Kyoto Period (794-1192 AD)**
  - Ki Tsurayuki (Japan 9##): “Kokinshu/ Collection from Ancient and Modern Times” (905), first anthology of waka
  - Sei Shonagon (Japan, 965): "Makura Soshi/ The Pillow Book" (996)
  - “Ise Monogatari” (90#)
  - "Utsubo Monogatari" (97#): world’s first full-length novel
  - Murasaki Shikibu (Japan, 973): “Genji Monogatari” (100#)
  - “Heike Monogatari” (Japan, 13th c), war tale
What the Japanese knew

• Heian/Kyoto Period (794-1192 AD)
  – Buddhist architecture: geometric temples replaced by temples that harmonize with the natural environment (Shinto principle of blending with rather than conquering nature)
What the Japanese knew

- Heian/Kyoto Period (794-1192 AD)
  - Buddhist sculpture

Vaisravana (9th c)
Tokyo Museum
What the Japanese knew

- Heian/Kyoto Period (794-1192 AD)
  - Buddhist apocalypse: Two thousand years after the death of Sakyamuni (i.e. 1052) will be the first year of the end of Buddhist law. No enlightenment can be attained. Buddhism will decline for 5,670,000,000 years until the coming of Maitreya. Maitreya will need the sutras. Hence sutras are engraved in paper, clay tables, bronze plates and buried.
What the Japanese knew

- Heian/Kyoto Period (794-1192 AD)
  - Painting
    - Fusion of painting and domestic architecture: folding screens (derived from China) and sliding doors
    - Mainly mandalas
What the Japanese knew

- Heian/Kyoto Period (794-1192 AD)
  - Jogan style (794–897)
    - Wooden sculptures
    - Drapery
    - Painter Li-Chen: portraits of patriarchs
What the Japanese knew

• Heian/Kyoto Period (794-1192 AD)
  – One of the most important festivals in Japan, the Gion festival is celebrated every summer in Kyoto at the Yasaka shrine since 869

Gion festival, six panel screen from the 18th c., Asian Art Museum, San Francisco
Gion festival, six panel screen from the 18th c., Asian Art Museum, San Francisco
What the Japanese knew

Gion festival, six panel screen from the 18th c., Asian Art Museum, San Francisco
What the Japanese knew

• Buddhism
  – Belief in “Pure Land” widespread
  – Belief in “raigo”: ceremony of Amida welcoming the dead in paradise

• Shintoism
  – First anthropomorphomorphic representation of deities
  – Deification of a real person, Sugawara Michizane (10th c)
Japan

• “Pure Land” Buddhism
  – Sho Kannon, an agent of the Buddha Amida, is the most popular deity of the Buddhist pantheon

Asian Art Museum, San Francisco
What the Japanese knew

- **Jodo Shu** ("Pure Land" sect)
- **Genshin** (b 942AD, Buddhist):
  - Paradise (Amida/Amitabha’s "Pure Land of Supreme Bliss")
  - Hell
- **Honen** (1133 AD, Buddhist):
  - "Pure Land" path (Jodo Buddhism/ Amidism)
  - Salvation by Amida Buddha to all those who sincerely seek his assistance by calling out his name (nembutsu)
  - Salvation by faith alone
  - Salvation can only occur after death
- **Taima Mandara**
Japan

- Fujiwara style (898-1185)
  - Art inspired by “Pure Land”
  - Yamato-e tradition of painting (based on national rather than on Chinese features: Japanese people in Japanese settings)
  - Raigo paintings
  - Kanaoka (9th c.), first major native painter (no surviving paintings)
  - Jocho (11th c), first major native sculptor
  - Shunjobo Chogen (1121), architect of new Todai-ji

Kichijouten, 12th c. Joruri-ji, Nara

Jocho, 1053, Kyoto
Japan

- Fujiwara style (898-1185)

Sanjusangendo (1164), Kyoto

Jocho, 1053, Kyoto
Japan

• Fujiwara style (898-1185)
  – Emakimono (narrative scroll)
    • Toba (1053): “Animal Scrolls”
    • Genji Monogatari (1120), 150m long with more than 100 paintings
    • Tokiwa Mitsunaga (11##): “Ban Dainagon Ekotoba” (117#)
    • Shigisan Engi Emaki (11##)
    • Painting + Poetry + Calligraphy
    • Emphasis on the seasons
Tokiwa Mitsunaga (11##): “Ban Dainagon Ekotoba”
Japan

- **Fujiwara style (898-1185)**

Gen'ji Monogatari (1120), Goto Art Museum

Shaka/Sakyamuni rising from the gold coffin (Kyoto National Museum)
Japan

- Samurai warfare 1000-1573
  - No defensive fortifications for cities (no walls, no castles)
  - Cities inessential for winning a war or controlling the economy
  - Wars are fought in the countryside
  - Wars are fought by samurai alone, no military service for peasants or city dwellers
What the Japanese knew

• Kamakura shogunate (1185AD)
  – 1192: the emperor appoints Yoritomo as "shogun" (military leader) with residence in Kamakura (bakufu system of government)
  – 1227: Soto Zen Buddhism is introduced in Japan by the monk Dogen
  – 1333: emperor Go-Daigo defeats the Kamakura shogunate
  – 1549: the Catholic missionary Frances Xavier
  – 1603: the Tokugawa dynasty of shoguns based in Edo
  – 1868: restoration of the emperor (Meiji)
What the Japanese knew

- Kamakura shogunate (1185AD)
  - samurai (loyalty, selflessness)
What the Japanese knew

• Shinran (b 1173AD, Buddhist):
  – Disciple of Honen (Jodo Buddhism/ Amidism)
  – Not just nembutsu but also shinjin (trusting Amida), which, once achieved, guarantees one’s arrival in the Pure Land
  – Pure Land is a state of wisdom
  – The sage who reaches the Pure Land returns to the world of samsara to help others

• Ippen (b 1239AD):
  – Pure Land but emphasis on meditation
Japan

- Kamakura poetry (1192-1333)
  - First commentary on “Manyoshu” (13th c)
  - "Shin Kokinshu" (120#)
  - Saigyo (1113)
  - Fujiwara Teika (1162)
Japan

• Kamakura style (1192-1333)
  – Ferocious and grotesque sculpture
  – Unkei (1148)
  – Kokei (11##)
  – Kaikei
  – Jokei
  – Tankei (1173)

Guardian by Unkei
Todaiji, Nara (1203)

Kannon by Kokei,
Kofuku-ji, Nara (1189)

Hachiman by
Kaikei,
Todai-ji,
Nara (1201)
Japan

- Kamakura style (1192-1333)

Bishamon Ten/ Vaisravana (12th c)
Tokyo Museum

Three Avalokitesvara statues of 13th c (by Ryuan, Tankei and Injo) Tokyo Museum
Japan

• Kamakura style (1192-1333)
  – Migration of yamato-e into sculpture
  – First depictions of actual likeness of real people

Sculpture of Yoritomo (13th c)
Tokyo National Museum
Japan

- Kamakura style (1192-1333)
  - Handscrolls: more narrative than landscape

Tokiwa Mitsunaga: “Ban Dainagon ekotoba” (1170)
(Sakai Collection, Tokyo)
Japan

- Kamakura style (1192-1333)

Heiji Monogatari (13th c), Tokyo Museum
Japan

• Kamakura style (1192-1333)

Kegon Engi Emaki, the illustrated history of the founding of the Kegon sect (13th c)
Japan

- Kamakura style/ Emaki (1192-1333)

Fujiwara Tsunetaka: Scroll of St Ippen (1299)
What the Japanese knew

- Buddhist Hell Scrolls
  - Pure Land art

Taima Mandara,
Nara Museum (13th c)
What the Japanese knew

• Buddhist Hell Scrolls
  – Jigoku zoushi (1180, Tokyo Museum)
  – Gaki zoushi (1180, Kyoto Museum)
What the Japanese knew

• Kamakura style (1192-1333)

Kofuku-ji, Nara (1210)

Bronze statue of Amida Buddha at Kotokuin in Kamakura (1252)
What the Japanese knew

- Zen Buddhism (1191AD)
  - Satori/ enlightenment: the sudden experience of the Buddha nature of all things
  - Zen monk as a spiritual samurai
  - Nirvana and samsara are identical (nirvana transforms the world rather than eliminating it)
  - Tendai and Pure Land: salvation via faith in an external entity (Lotus Sutra, Amida)
  - Zen: salvation via self-discipline
What the Japanese knew

• Zen Buddhism (1191AD)
  – Rinzai school: sudden enlightenment while concentrating to solve a koan ("sanzen", conversation with a master)
  – Soto school: gradual enlightenment through meditation in daily life ("zazen", sitting meditation)
  – Wabi: ideal of ascetic lifestyle
What the Japanese knew

- Zen Buddhism (1191AD)
  - Satori is facilitated by
    - martial arts,
    - tea ceremonies,
    - gardening,
    - Haiku poetry,
    - calligraphy,
    - No drama
What the Japanese knew

• Dogen (b 1200AD, zen):
  – Philosopher of Time
  – Practice and enlightenment are dual aspects of the same process (the “casting off of body-mind”)
  – Practice is not temporally prior to enlightenment
  – Identity of time and eternity
  – Identity of impermanence and nirvana
  – Zazen meditation and koan interpretation are equivalent
What the Japanese knew

- Nichiren (1253):
  - Apocalyptic vision of Japan (attacked by Mongols, devastated by natural disasters)
  - Scathing indictment of Buddhist sects
  - Salvation by faith in the Lotus Sutra by invoking its title in a mantra (return to Tendai innocence)
  - Nichiren’s name written with characters of “sun” and “lotus”
  - Japan to become the see of worldwide Buddhism
  - First nationalist ideology of Japan
  - Only major Buddhist sect that did not derive from a Chinese/Indian sect
What the Japanese knew

• Zen architecture
  – Sanmon gate (two storeys)
  – Landscape garden

Sanmon of Tofuku-ji, Kyoto (1425)
What the Japanese knew

- "Sakuteiki/ Records of Garden Making" (11th c) treatise on gardening
Zen Gardens
What the Japanese knew

- Zen painting
  - Kichizan Mincho (1352)
  - Tensho Shubun (14##)
  - Sesshu Toyo (1420)

Shukei-sansui (Autumn Landscape), by Sesshu Toyo
What the Japanese knew

• Renga poetry
  – Linked verse (originally a pastime of the court) becomes an art
  – Popular among Buddhist priests
What the Japanese knew

- Japanese Drama
  - Fusion of theater, music, dance
  - Fixed repertoire of plays, stylized characters
  - Gigaku (612): dances of masked dancers
  - Sangaku (700): tightrope walking, juggling, sword swallowing
  - Bugaku (750): solemn dances celebrating imperial events
What the Japanese knew

• Japanese Drama
  – No (1300): solemn poetry, solemn dances, only male actors, sumptuous costumes, chorus, supernatural themes (gods, ghosts, devils, spirits)
  – Kyogen: farce (prose, no music)
  – Joruri (puppet theater, 1650): Chikamatsu Monzaemon
  – Kabuki (1650): spectacle rather than drama, emphasis on acting, music, dance
What the Japanese knew

- Ashikaga/Muromachi era (1392-1573)
  - Intellectual life dominated by Zen
  - Resumption of trade with China (Ming) led by the Zen temples of Kyoto
What the Japanese knew

• Ashikaga era (1392-1573)
  – Architecture

Golden pavilion, Kinkaku-ji/ Rokuon-ji,, Kyoto, 1489
What the Japanese knew

- Ashikaga style (1392-1573)
  - Prevalence of monochrome painting (sumi-e) in the Chinese Song (kanga) style of Chinese subjects
    - Josetsu
    - Shubun (1390)
    - Sesshu (1420)
    - Keishoki (15th c)
    - Sesson Shokei (1504)
    - Kano Motonobu (1476): fusion of kanga monochrome painting and Yamato style
What the Japanese knew

- Ashikaga style (1392-1573)
  - Sesshu (1420), master of haboku painting

(Tokyo National Museum)
What the Japanese knew

• Ashikaga style (1392-1573)
  – Yusho Kaihoku (1533)

Kaihoku:
“The Four Sages of Mount Shang-Shan”
Kokka Company: “A Gallery of Japanese
and Chinese Painting” (1908)
What the Japanese knew

• Ashikaga style (1392-1573)
  • Hasegawa Tohaku (1539)
  • Kano Eitoku (1543)
  • Kano Mitsunobu (1561)
  • Kamo Sanraku (1559)

Kano Eitoku
(Tokyo National Museum)
What the Japanese knew

• Ashikaga style (1392-1573)

Landscape of the Four Seasons (15th c) (Tokyo National Museum)
What the Japanese knew

• Ashikaga style (1392-1573)
  – Civil war 1467-1591
    • Collapse of the shogunate
    • Constant civil strife
    • Devastation of Kyoto (first time in Japanese history)
    • Artists and intellectuals flee from Kyoto to provincial capitals
    • Zen temples of Kyoto lose their influence
    • Decline of traditional daimyo houses and rise of new ones
What the Japanese knew

• Ashikaga style (1392-1573)
  – European penetration
    • 1542: first Portuguese traders
    • Introduction of firearms, tobacco and eyeglasses into Japan
    • 1549: Catholic missionary Frances Xavier
    • Affinities between Jesuits and samurai
    • Several daimyos convert to Christianity
    • Nagasaki largely a Christian city enjoying a boom of trade with the Portuguese
    • Age of castle building (first time in history that the Japanese fortified their cities)
    • 1591: the Jesuits establish a printing press
What the Japanese knew

- Ashikaga style (1392-1573)
  - European penetration
    - Introduction of oil painting
    - 1590s: Craze for western fashion
    - 1633: Ban on foreign books and foreign travel
What the Japanese knew

• Ashikaga style (1392-1573)
  – Massacre of Jesuits

“Martyrdom of 1622” (Gesu, Rome)

Jacques Callot: The Martyrs of Japan (1628)
What the Japanese knew

- Sado (tea ceremony)
  - Codified by Zen priests Shuko (1421) and Sen-no-Rikyu (1521) around the principle of *ichi-go ichi-e*, ("one time, one meeting"), the belief that each meeting can never be reproduced and is therefore sacred, and “Zen and tea are one”
  - Interdisciplinary: kimono, calligraphy, flower arrangement, ceramics…
  - Influence on architecture (tea house, garden, stone basin of water)
  - 1587: Ten-day tea party at the Kitano Shrine (thrown by ruler Hideyoshi)
  - Sen-no-Rikyu one of the most influential people of his age (forced to commit suicide by Hideyoshi)
What the Japanese knew

• Haiku (16th century)
  – 17-syllable poem
  – Evolved from the “waka” and the Buddhist “renga”
  – Three unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables
  – A pair of contrasting images: a scene and an observation
  – Poetry = synthesis of visual and verbal
  – Basho Matsuo, Yosa Buson, Kobayashi Issa, Masuoka Shiki
What the Japanese knew

• Basho Matsuo

With every gust of wind,
the butterfly changes its place
on the willow

All the day long-
yet not long enough for the skylark,
singing, singing.

A green willow,
dripping down into the mud,
at low tide.

Sleep on horseback,
The far moon in a continuing dream,
Steam of roasting tea.
What the Japanese knew

• Sen No Rikyu (b 1522): wabi (quiet simple life) via sado (tea ceremony)
• Suzuki Shosan (b 1579AD): work leads to enlightenment
• Yamaga Soko (b 1622AD): Japan is superior to all other countries
• Motoori Norinaga (b 1730): "mono no aware" (pathos of things)
What the Japanese knew

Kaiho Yusho (1533): "The Four Scholarly Pastimes”
(Nelson Museum, Kansas City)
• Unification of Japan

Japan after Nobunaga
Spring 1583
What the Japanese knew

• Unification of Japan (1568-1603)

![Oda Nobunaga](image1.png)

![Toyotomi Hideyoshi](image2.png)

![Tokugawa Ieyasu](image3.png)
What the Japanese knew

- Hayashi Razan (b1583)
  - Zhu Xi’s neo-Confucianism
  - But the Taiji is a deity, the Shinto deity Amenominakanushi (the first kami to come into being in the Plain of Heaven)
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  - 250 years of peace
  - Money replaces rice as the medium of exchange
  - Boom of city life
  - Economic boom
  - Rise of the class of shop-keepers (merchants and artisans)
  - Decline of Buddhism and rise of Confucianism
  - Class of samurais converted from martial arts to classic literature (samurais replace Buddhist priests as custodians of knowledge)
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  - 250 years of peace
    - 1614: Ban of Christianity
    - 1641: Ban of all foreigners except Chinese and Dutch (limited to Nagasaki)
    - Foreign books also forbidden
    - No wars against foreign peoples since the Mongols
    - Seclusion of the country
    - Reinstitution of feudal rule
What the Japanese knew

• Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  – Dutch factory in Nagasaki in 17th c
What the Japanese knew

• Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  – Economic boom
    • Higher agricultural productivity
    • Improved transportation network
    • Increase of domestic commerce
    • Rapid urbanization
    • Spread of literacy
What the Japanese knew

• Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  – Social classes
    • Samurai (top), peasants, artisans, merchants (bottom)
    • The economic boom mostly benefits the classes at the bottom
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  - Samurai
    - Samurai move to the cities
    - Samurai become custodians of tradition: no theater, tea ceremony
    - Samurai lead the Confucian revival
    - Anachronism: a class of warriors presides over Japan’s most peaceful era
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  - Social pyramid:
    - Shogun
    - Daimyo (lords)
    - Samurai (warriors turned bureaucrats)
    - Peasants
    - Artisans
    - Traders/merchants the lowest class
    - Chonin: artisans and traders (both city dwellers, both inferior)
    - But chonin become richer and richer while samurai become poorer and poorer
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  - Critics of Neo-Confucianism
    - Nakae Toju (b 1608)
      - Man should act according to its intuition
      - Japanese version of Wang Yang-Ming’s philosophy
What the Japanese knew

• Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  – Critics of Neo-Confucianism
    • Yamaga Soko (1622)
      – Bushido (the way of the warrior): ethical code for samurai in a time of peace
        » Tashiro Tsuramoto (16##): "Hagakure/ In the Shadow of Leaves" (1716) [h]
      – Birth of Japanese nationalism: Japanese culture is superior to Chinese culture
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  - Critics of Neo-Confucianism
    - Ito Jinsai (1627)
      - Confucianism as a discipline of ethics
      - Centered on the human being: individual morality and its extension, politics
      - Rejects the metaphysics of neo-Confucianism
      - The way of the Heaven consists of yin and yang
      - The way of the Earth consists of hardness and softness
      - The way of Humans consists of benevolence (internal virtue) and righteousness/dojimon (external virtue)
What the Japanese knew

• Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  – Critics of Neo-Confucianism
    • Ito Jinsai (1627)
      – No connection between morality and cosmic order
      – There is no Supreme Ultimate, and no difference between Li and Qi
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  - Critics of Neo-Confucianism
    - Kaibara Ekiken (1630)
      - Confucianism as a discipline of government
      - Rejects the metaphysics of neo-Confucianism
      - Transcendent reality (form/principle, Li) and actual reality (matter/ether, Qi) are the same
      - The Supreme Ultimate is simply Qi before the universe was created
      - Since Li and Qi are the same, human nature is fundamentally good
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  - Critics of Neo-Confucianism
- Arai Hakuseki (1657)
  - Materialist Confucianism
  - Qi’s yin and yang form beings
  - When beings die, part becomes oni (demon) and part kami (god)
  - Each person has two souls: kon (consciousness, yang) and haku (form, yin)
  - The two souls separate at death: kon goes to heaven and becomes a kami, haku goes underground and becomes a oni
  - Li is unnecessary: only matter (Qi) matters
What the Japanese knew

• Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  – Critics of Neo-Confucianism
    • Ogyu Sorai (1666)
      – Focus not on individual ethics but on government efficiency
      – The legendary kings of ancient China represent the perfect way to govern
      – Confucianism for the rulers, not for the ruled
What the Japanese knew

• Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  – Critics of Neo-Confucianism
    • Kamo Mabuchi (1697)
      – Search for the authentic Japanese spirit before it was contaminated by Chinese culture (e.g., “Manyoshu”)

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What the Japanese knew

• Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  – Critics of Neo-Confucianism
    • Honda Toshiaki (1697)
      – Japan should learn from the West
      – Japan should expand overseas
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  - Critics of Neo-Confucianism
    - Ando Shoeki (170#)
      - Critique of Buddhism, Confucianism and Shintoism
      - Critique of society as well: the social order is an aberration created by humans and it does not harmonize with natural order
      - Utopia of a society in which everybody is self-sufficient (produces what s/he needs)
      - Only matter (Qi/ki) matters. There is no need for Li.
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  - Critics of Neo-Confucianism
    - Tominaga Nakamoto (1715)
      - Critique of Buddhism, Confucianism and Shintoism
      - Each is but a stage in a process of historical development of human understanding
      - Good and evil are self-evident: there is no need for Buddhism or Confucianism
What the Japanese knew

• Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  – Critics of Neo-Confucianism
  • Miura Baien (1723)
    – “Westerners base their thought on observation”
    – Update the metaphysics of Neo-Confucianism with European knowledge of Astronomy
    – Hegel-style dialectical development of matter (Qi) through conflicts of opposites
    – The universe is permeated by a logic that presides over the development of Qi
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  - Shingaku: Neo-confucianism for chonin
    - Founder: Ishida Baigan (b1685)
    - No highbrow theories but discussion with ordinary people
    - Confucianism, Buddhism and Shintoism are equal
    - Ideology of acceptance of the social order
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  - Shingaku: Neo-confucianism for chonin
    - Main qualities required of a chonin: thrift, diligence, loyalty
    - Humans need to resist the selfish heart (shishin) and move towards the universal heart (kokoro)
    - Stages of personal growth: stoicism (thrift, diligence), self-sacrifice (loyalty) and selflessness/mushi (kokoro)
    - Then the social order harmonizes with the natural order
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  - 1790: an imperial edict ("Kansei Igaku no Kin") proclaims Neo-Confucianism the official state philosophy
What the Japanese knew

• Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  – Entertainment
    • Red-light districts (Ukiyo)
      – Yoshiwara of Edo, Shinmachi of Osaka, Shimabara of Kyoto
      – Another sign of Buddhist decline
What the Japanese knew

• Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  – Painting
    • More secular than religious art
    • Representation of ordinary people and kabuki actors
    • Flowers and birds (as in China)
    • Colors
What the Japanese knew

- Genre painting

Hikone-Byobu, 17th c, brothel scene
(Collection Hikone, Shiga prefecture)

Matsuura Byobu, 17th c
(Museum Yamato Bunkakan, Nara)
What the Japanese knew

• Tokugawa style (1603-1868)
  – Painting
    • Fusuma (sliding door panels)
    • Byobu (folding screens)
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa style (1603-1868)
  - Painting
    - Tawaraya Sosatsu (15##): yamato-e style with Japanese themes
    - Iwasa Matabei (1578): “ukiyo-e” (pleasure district)
    - Kano Tanyu (1602): traditional
    - Hishikawa Moronobu (1618): ukiyo-e woodblock prints (beautiful women in erotic attire)
    - Ogata Korin (1658): yamato-e style
    - Hakuin Ekaku (1685): “zenga” (meditational)
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa style (1603-1868)
  - Painting

A Brothel
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa style (1603-1868)
  - Painting

Tawaraya Sosetsu's Autumn Grasses (17th c)
Tokyo Museum
What the Japanese knew

• Tokugawa style (1603-1868)
  – Painting
    • Suzuki Harunobu (1725): “nishiki-e” (polychrome woodblock prints)
    • Maruyama Okuo (1733): realism
    • Kano “Seisenin” Osanobu (1796): traditional
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa style (1603-1868)
  - Painting
    - Suzuki Harunobu

A Lady with Two Servants (1783)

Girl jumps from Kiyomizu-dera

Kanzan and Jittoku
What the Japanese knew

• Tokugawa style (1603-1868)
  – Painting
  • Ukiyo-e
    – Pictures of the floating world, mostly depicting the decadent lifestyle of Edo’s entertainment district
    – Embraces woodblock print
    – Hishikawa Moronobu (1618)
    – Okumura Masanobu (1686)
    – Shunsho Katsukawa (1726)
    – Kitagawa Utamaro (1753)
    – Katsushika Hokusai (1760)
    – Ando Hiroshige (1797)
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa style (1603-1868)
  - Painting
    - Okumura Masanobu

The Love Letter (1748)
Shibai Uki-e (1744)
What the Japanese knew

• Tokugawa style (1603-1868)
  – Painting
    • Shunsho Katsukawa: yakusha-e, prints of Kabuki actors
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa style (1603-1868)
  - Painting
    - Katsushika Hokusai (1760)
What the Japanese knew

• Tokugawa style (1603-1868)
  – Painting
    • Katsushika Hokusai: “36 views of mount Fuji”
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa style (1603-1868)
  - Painting
    - Katsushika Hokusai: “36 views of mount Fuji”
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa style (1603-1868)
  - Painting
    - Ando Hiroshige

Bow Moon (1835)
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa style (1603-1868)
  - Painting
    - Kitagawa Utamaro

Fukaku Shinobu Koi (1794)
What the Japanese knew

• Tokugawa style (1603-1868)
  – Painting
    • Kitagawa Utamaro

Hideyoshi and his Five Wives Viewing the Cherry-blossoms at Higashiyama
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa style (1603-1868)
  - Painting
    - Kitagawa Utamaro

"A Cherry Blossom Viewing Party" (1790)
What the Japanese knew

• Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  – Painting
• Sakaki Hyakusen (1697): “bunjinga” (literati)
• Yosa Buson (1716): bunjinga
• Ike Taiga (1723): bunjinga
• Maruyama Okyo (1733): naturalistic
• Shiba Kokan (1738): naturalistic
• Okada Beisanjin (1744): bunjinga
• Uragami Gyokudo (1745): bunjinga
• Yamamoto Baiitsu (1783): bunjinga
• Watanabe Kazan (1793): bunjinga
What the Japanese knew

• Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  – Architecture
    • Shoin (private residence)
    • Castles

Himeji castle (1609), Osaka

Katsura imperial villa (1624), Kyoto
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)

Toshugu Shrine at Nikko

Pagoda (1644), To-ji, Kyoto
What the Japanese knew

• Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  – Sculpture
    • Enku (162#)
What the Japanese knew

• Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  – Karakuri puppets
    • Omi Takeda’s shows in Osaka since 1662
    • Yorinao “Hanzo” Hosokawa: “Karakuri zui/ Illustrated Compendium of Clever Machines” (1796)
• Hisashige Tanaka
  – Hall of Automata (1852) in Kyoto
  – Mannendokei/ Ten-thousand year clock” (1851)
• Benikichi Ohno
What the Japanese knew

• Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  – Literature
    • Fiction
      – Ihara Saikaku (1642): erotic fiction
    • Kabuki theater
    • Puppet theater: Chikamatsu (1653)
    • Haiku poetry: Matsuo Basho (1644)
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  - Painting
    - Katsushika Hokusai (1760): westernized
    - Ando Hiroshige (1797): westernized

Katsushika Hokusai: Great Wave of Kanagawa (183#)
What the Japanese knew

- Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  - Painting
    - Utagawa Kuniyoshi (1798):
      - Tameijiro dan Shogo fighting underwater

Takiyasha the Witch and the Skeleton Spectre
What the Japanese knew

• Late Tokugawa shogunate (1603-1868)
  – The cultural center of the nation shifts from Kyoto to Tokyo/Edo
What the Japanese knew

- Origami
  - “Ranma zushiki/ Designs for Decorative Transoms” (1734)
  - “Hiden Senbazuru Orikata/ Secret to Folding One-thousand Cranes” (1797)