UNIT 7- ANCIENT JAPAN GRAPES NOTES

**G= GEOGRAPHY**

* Nation of islands- several thousands of islands
* Physical isolation- separated from mainland China by the Sea of Japan
* Islands are 50% mountainous and full of forests.
* Climate is temperate to subtropical; has four seasons (winters are mild and summers are hot, humid)
* Earthquakes, volcanoes and typhoons are common.
* Created high value for land, lack of physical resources, and human resources
* High value of land resulted in many conflicts

**R= RELIGION**

* SHINTO-
  + Shrines built near sacred natural features
  + Principles include respect, honor, and loyalty
* BUDDHISM-
  + Inspired temples, paintings, poems and plays
  + Martial arts- a training technique for Zen Buddhism and training technique for samurai warriors to learn to control their bodies and movements
* Both religions focused on different needs in the lives of the people.

**A= ACHIEVEMENTS**

* Writing system and language- similar to Chinese
* Created beautiful art
  + Influenced by religions of Buddhism and Shinto
* Calligraphy
* Origami
* Tanka poetry
* Plays and novels
  + All described warriors in battle
* Lacquered boxes and furniture
* Landscape paintings that used water colors or ink
* Tea-drinking ceremonies
* Kung-fu: martial arts

**P= POLITICS**

* **Policy of Isolationism-**
  + Shoguns took control of international trade
  + Influenced by bad early experiences with Europeans
  + Geographic location caused part of policy
* Government-
  + Emperor- mainly a figurehead
  + Shoguns- main daimyo loyal to emperor
  + Daimyo- military lords that ruled smaller territories; loyal to shogun and emperor; ruled as independent kingdoms
* Created feudal system where former samurai warriors were vassals and hired by the lords (daimyo) to protect the kingdom

**E= ECONOMICS**

* Relied on the sea for food and trade
* Grew strong despite wars and lack of resources
* Traded: pottery, paper, textile, swords, books, and porcelain
* Trade spread through Asia and allowed Japanese nobles to become very wealthy
* Main trading partners were China and Korea

**S= SOCIAL STRUCTURE**

* Isolated but studied and was influenced by the culture of China
* Created feudal system where former samurai warriors were vassals and hired by the lords to protect the kingdom
* Emperor- more of a figure head at first; became more powerful as time went on
* **Shogun**- powerful military lord; actually ruled the land
* Daimyo- lesser lords and barons (nobility); loyal to the Shogun
* **Samurai**- warriors who protected property; loyal to the Daimyo and Shogun
* Merchants/Craftspeople- traders and bankers
* Farmers/Peasants/Fishermen- largest class; legally bound to the person who owned/controlled the land they worked.