

After the Roman Empire fell and the Islamic Empires took over, we learned about other societies living around these larger powers, like the barbarians of Europe, the Kingdoms of West Africa, and powerful city-states of East Africa. The Mongol Wars are at the start of medieval times, the Middle Ages. Japan has been on the eastern edge of Asia, influenced by Ancient China. As they grew stronger, they closed off their island to others, keeping out the Mongols. They would begin trading with Europeans sailing from Africa, and eventually their old feudal traditions would collapse in the 1860s (at the same time the United States fought its Civil War against slavery).

Read “The Four-Tiered Class System of Feudal Japan” found at <https://www.thoughtco.com/four-tiered-class-system-feudal-japan-195582> and answer the short questions below. **(5 points)**

1. Who were at the top tier of the Japanese feudal system? _____
2. Why were farmers and fisherman ranked higher in Japanese society than artisans and merchants?

3. Sometimes, what did the shogun make farmers do with their rice? _____

4. Who lived above the system? _____
5. As the system transformed, what happened to samurai? _____

Watch “Yasuke: Story of the African Samurai in Japan” at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0RZaHgXEhJ4>

Using the RACE method, write a paragraph on the following. How did European, African, and Japanese societies mix in this video, for good and bad? Why will the type of boats the Europeans began using change world history? **(5 points)**

Haiku

Haiku are three-line poems in a Japanese tradition that focus on expressing an emotion or painting an image. The topic is usually something found in nature. English haiku normally use a pattern of five **syllables** in the first line, seven in the second, and five in the final line.

syllable (noun) - a unit of pronunciation, forming the whole or a part of a word; for example, there are two syllables in *water* and three in *instagram*.

Do these poems follow those guidelines: a theme from nature, three lines, and a 5-7-5 **syllable** pattern?

*Snow in my shoe
Abandoned
Sparrow's nest*

by Jack Kerouac

*fresh scent—
the labrador's muzzle
deeper into snow*

by Lee Gurga

*Whitecaps on the bay:
A broken signboard banging
In the April wind.*

by Richard Wright

On your google document, write your own haiku on one of these themes: night, rain, or snow. (5 points for accuracy on syllables, lines, and topic.)

Extra resources: If you're curious about this time period and want to read more, Stan Sakai has a
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comic/234531?ref=c2VyaWVzL3ZpZXcvZGVza3RvcC9ncmlkTGlzdC9Db2xsZWV0ZWRFZGl0aW

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