

Handout 1 “Kamakura Google Map Questions”

In 1180, Minamoto no Yoritomo arrived in Kamakura with his many samurai warriors. Afterwards, Kamakura prospered as Japan’s unofficial capitol for over 150 years. During these days, the population was approximately 100,000 residents. Watch the video assigned and answer the following question.

1. One reason Kamakura was selected as the site for the shogunate is geography. Which are geographic advantages for choosing Kamakura as the new military capital? (Choose two)
 - The sea borders one side
 - It was a fertile river valley
 - Mountains surround it on three sides
 - It is on an elevated plateau that can be used to attack invaders
 - It is a peninsula that has a mountain range blocking the landside
2. What was the benefit of Kamakura’s geography compared to creating a walled city? *Answers will vary but the following will likely be a common response. The sea and mountains provided security. Otherwise, construction of a wall would have taken a lot of cost, time, and effort.*

For the remaining questions, use [The Kamakura Period \(1185-1333\) Google Map](#).

You previously learned about the Heian Period (700s-1100s) of Japanese history. To find out about Kamakura’s history during this time, use the ‘**Before and During the Heian Period**’ layer (turn off all other layers.)

3. Provide evidence from the map to support this claim: Kamakura existed prior to Minamoto no Yoritomo’s take over. *The Sugimotodera Temple (734), Goryō Shrine, and Hase-dera Temple (736) were all built prior to the Kamakura Period.*

To find out about the geography of Kamakura, use the ‘**Kiridoshi Passes are a Distinguishing Feature of Kamakura**’ layer (turn off all other layers.)

4. What symbol is used to mark locations for Kiridoshi passes? *Mountain peaks* 🏔️
5. How many of passes are there? *Seven*
6. What purpose do these passes serve? *Kiridoshi passes were cut through the mountains to allow for the movement of people and goods.*

Shintoism is the native religion of Japan. To find out about this, use the ‘**Shrines of the Kamakura Period**’ layer (turn off all other layers.)

7. What symbol is used to mark locations for Shinto shrines? *A tori gate* 🏯
8. The Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine is the oldest and most import Shinto shrine in Kamakura. What kami and focus of that kami that is honored here? *Hachiman deity, the god of warriors.*
9. What Shinto valued skill/talent is displayed at the Yabusame Ritual? *Archery on horseback*

Handout 1 “Kamakura Google Map Questions”

There are numerous Buddhist temples in the city built during the Kamakura Period. To find out about this, use the ‘**Temples of the Kamakura Period**’ layer (turn off all other layers.)

10. What symbol is used? Realize its use is controversial in some parts of the world, but not in Japan. *Swastika-Many students who are familiar with Nazi Germany and know that Japan was an ally of Germany in World War II will think the swastika is related to that alliance. It definitely is not, because Buddhist used the swastika symbol beginning approximately a thousand years before the twentieth century as a religious symbol that had nothing to do with the Nazis. The swastika comes from the Eurasian continent. Please refer to [The Past, Present, and Future of the Swastika in Japan](#) for background information.*

11. Do you think this symbol should still be used? *Answers will vary*

12. How does Buddhism existing in Japan demonstrate cultural diffusion? *Students should be able to recall that Buddhism originated in India and came to Japan via China and the Korean Peninsula.*

In the China’s Southern Song Dynasty (1127- 1279), five temples were chosen and ranked as the Five Great Temples. This system was adopted by the Kamakura shogunate to rank Rinzaï Temples. To find out more, investigate the ‘**The Five Great Rinzaï Temples of Kamakura in Order of Rank**’ layer (turn off all other layers.)

13. Find the Jufukuji Temple (1200). What did Eisai introduced to Japan? *Tea*

14. What is the public invited to do at the Engakuji and Kenchoji Temples? *Meditate*

15. Why did this religious practice appeal to the samurai? *Regular meditation practice helped samurai clear their minds during battle conditions.*

16. Which distinct Japanese religious sect uses the Rinzaï temples? *Zen Buddhist*

To find out about more about Kamakura, use the ‘**Other Points of Interest**’ layer (turn off all other layers.)

17. Who created Wakamiya Oji Avenue? *Minamoto no Yoritomo*

18. Find the Wakaenoshima Port. What are the geographic hazards facing Kamakura and Japan in general? *Earthquakes, High Waves, and (inferred) Tsunamis*

19. Find the Daibutsu (Great Buddha) of Kamakura (1252) and look at the photograph. How does this statue represent cultural diffusion? *Seen from the side, the Kamakura Buddha is seated slouching forward slightly. This style is typical of China’s Song dynasty (960-1279). Other Song dynasty influences are seen in the Buddha’s long nose, exotic face and realistic posture.*

20. Considering popular beliefs of Japanese culture and the samurai, what might someone expect to see on the map; but is not present? *Answers will vary but might include the lack of battle sites or memorials; i.e., references to the samurai as warriors are not present (no statue of a samurai), and there are no statues or direct references to Confucius.*