

feudal Japan 1185-1800s

Feudalism= A system of **protection** where large landholders (lords) offer protection to people in return for their service to the land owner.

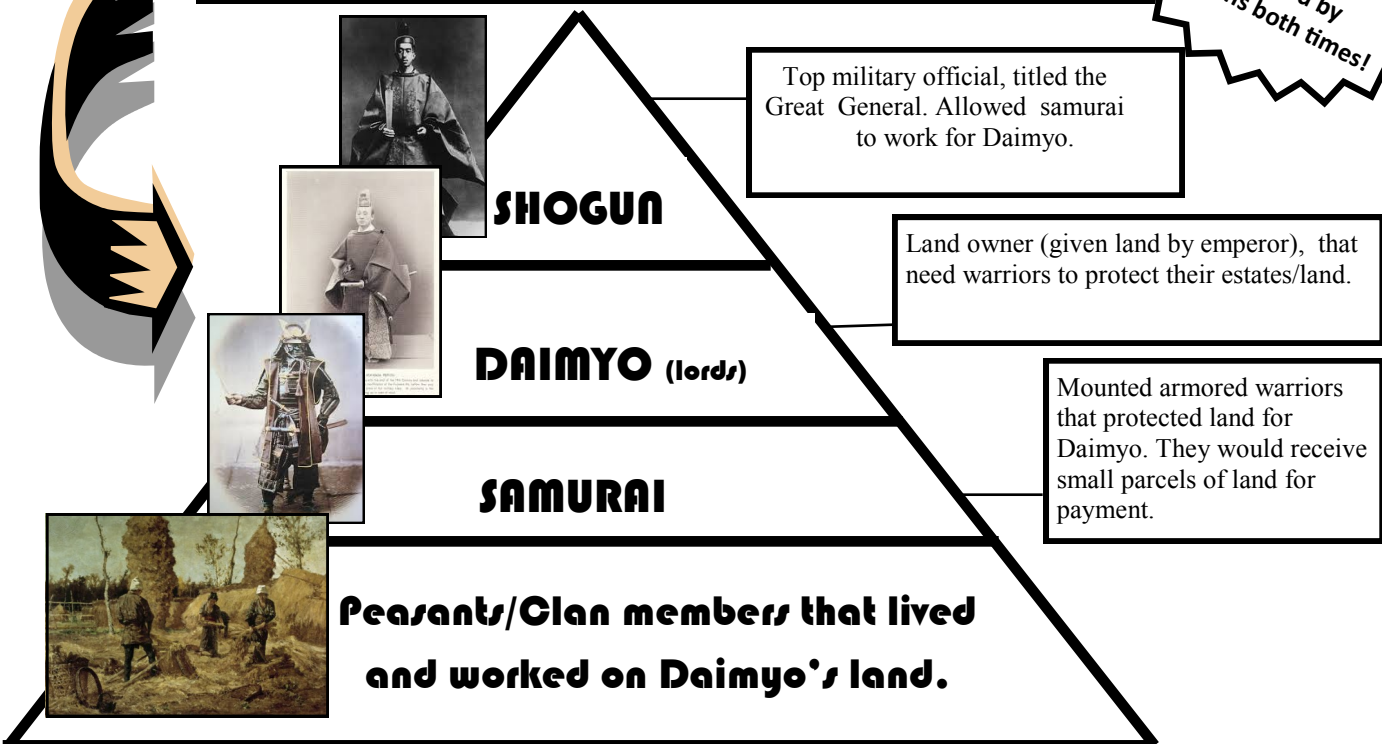
Why did people need to be protected? What was happening in medieval Japan?

1. There were many competing clans in Japanese provinces. Japan was dangerous and not unified.
2. Nobles fought each other over land, rebels fought against imperial officials. Lawlessness spread. People rebelled. Land was destroyed, so farming became impossible. Peasants started thieving to survive.
3. Wealthy, cultured, court nobles of the Heian period (794-1185) ignored the provinces, which encouraged lawlessness.
4. In order to stop rebellions, Japan's large land owners, Daimyo, decided they needed to protect their land.
5. They hired samurai, trained professional warriors to defend their property.
6. In 1192 the emperor gave the title of "Great General", or "Shogun" to the leader of the most powerful clan. A shogun is a powerful military leader.
7. The emperor tried to maintain power, but the real power was in the hands of the Shogun (the top military leader).
8. The emperor was a mere figurehead (a person who appears to be in power but the real power rests with someone else)
9. In the late 1200s the Mongols under Kublai Khan attacked, further weakening Japan.

Did you know that the Mongols attacked 2 times, but much of their fleet was destroyed by typhoons both times!

What was the result?

1. A system of protection was created to ensure safety for the people in the provinces.



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SHOGUN

Top military official, titled the Great General. Allowed samurai to work for _____.

DAIMYO (lords)

Land owner (given land by _____), that need warriors to protect their estates/land.

SAMURAI

Mounted armored warriors that protected land for Daimyo. They would receive small parcels of _____ for payment.

Peasants/Clan members that lived and worked on Daimyo's land.

