

Part 1: Japan Today and The Cardinal Anchor Facts

1. What is Japan’s rank among industrial/trading nations? What is its rank as a military power? Why then is it *not* a cardinal culture in the world today? What is a surprising feature of Japan’s population growth curve that reflects this key point about Japan today.

2. Draw a diagram of the three periods of Japanese history. Label the segments, and label the diagram with the dates of the three cardinal anchor facts and the additional three major anchor facts of Japanese history.

Part 2: Isolated Japan

3. When does Japanese history begin, according to Japanese tradition? How is Japanese government connected to Japanese religion, and how are both of these connected to Japan's culture of isolation?

4. How was Japan's isolation affected by being next to China, a larger and more established culture? How was it affected by the arrival of Europeans?

5. How was Japan's isolation broken?

Part 3: Imperial Japan

6. How could an insular/xenophobic culture like Japan become an imperial culture? What is the logic of this transformation?

7. Where did Japan focus its initial efforts to build an empire? What were the key moments in its history as an empire?

Part 4: Post-Imperial Japan

8. What two Americans are most responsible for shaping Japan's *post-imperial* culture, and how?
