3.2B. Refined Court Life During the Heian Period (A.D. 794—1185)

What do you see? Describe the way the rooms are furnished. Describe how the people are dressed. These are Japanese nobles. What kinds of things are they doing? What does this image tell you about their lifestyle?

In this slide we see a late seventeenth-century six-fold screen (60.4 in. by 137.75 in.) depicting two chapters from Muraskai Shikibu’s *Tale of Genji*. The upper scene illustrates a famous scene from the story: Genji, who is seeking treatment for his fever in the Northern Hills in Kyoto, saw through a fence the young Murasaki, who was to become one of his romantic consorts. The second scene shows one of Genji’s encounters with Utsusemi, the wife of a lesser officer away on duty, who is playing a game of *go*, unaware of being watched by Genji, who had spent the previous night with her. Removing the buildings’ roofs to reveal their interiors and using a cloud as a background are styles introduced during the Edo period.
self-sufficient, they used private armies to battle rivals and increase their land holdings. By the end of the Heian period, the provincial nobles, the first samurai, ignored any imperial edicts they did not accept. Their wars and rivalries merged into a long battle between the Taira and Minamoto clans, who fought to replace the Fujiwara as controllers of the royal family.

**Slide 3.2B: Refined Court Life During the Heian Period (A.D. 794–1185)**

**Nobles Gain Power over the Imperial Family**
- earned trust of emperor and thereby gained control of chancellorship
- married daughters to crown princes, ensuring that those who ascended to throne were grandsons
- received most of government’s high-ranking posts
- convinced emperor to give *shoen* (tax-free estates) as gifts to loyal nobles
- dominated emperor so that his role became almost completely ceremonial

**The Refined Life of Court Nobles**
- maintained elegant appearance—clothing and makeup were elaborate
- practiced restrained behavior—rude to laugh with one’s mouth open
- always maintained decorum—letters had to be folded properly
- devoted leisure time to pursuing pastimes—such as playing Go— influenced by Chinese culture

**The Rise of the Provincial Nobles**
- provincial nobles were rugged, independent, and led private armies
- became more powerful as court nobles isolated themselves
- constantly battled with one another over control of provinces

**3.2C. The Rise of Feudalism and the Mongol Invasion (A.D. 1185–1333)**

What do you see? What visual clues can you use to determine that both of these armies are not Japanese? Where might the ships be from? Who seems to be winning the battle? What advantages does the Japanese army have?

☐ In this slide we see an illustration of Japanese samurai repelling invading Mongol forces.
Slide 3.2C: The Rise of Feudalism and the Mongol Invasion (A.D. 1185-1333)

A Threat from Outside
1. Mongol Invasions
   • leader, Kublai Khan, wanted to subjugate Korea and Japan
   • sent 450 ships and 15,000 troops to Japan, but they were destroyed by typhoon
   • seven years later, sent another 150,000 troops, but they were destroyed too

2. Aftermath of Mongol Invasions
   • sense of national unity developed; Japanese felt their culture was superior
   • Japan reaped no spoils from war, only debts
   • unpaid samurai terrorized peasants to get money
   • Kamakura shogunate driven from power by dissatisfied samurai

Inside Japan
1. Battle for Government Control
   • Taira and Minamoto clans fought for control
   • Yoritomo Minamoto drove Taira from power

2. Rise of Feudalism
   • under Yoritomo's rule, samurai warriors dominate Japanese society
   • samurai warriors took control of Japan's government
   • created a Bakufu (military government)
   • emperor acted only as religious leader of Japan

Bakufu
- shogun: military and political leader of Japan
- daimyo: high-ranking samurai lords who provided shogun with warriors in exchange for land
- samurai: lower-ranking warriors who served their daimyo in exchange for small manors
- peasants: lowest class: worked land for their lord

3.2D. Civil War and Reunification (A.D. 1333–1603)

What do you see here? What kinds of weapons are being used? What might the buildings in the upper-left corner be used for? What visual clues can you use to support the fact that this is a battle between two Japanese armies, and not an attack by a foreign army?

In this slide we see a scene from a painting of the Onin War (A.D. 1467–1477), the beginning of a hundred years of civil strife in Japan.

- The period that followed the defeat of the Kamakura Bakufu was a time of political disunity in Japan. The emperor Godaigo proclaimed himself supreme ruler, hoping to return total power to the royal family. But because of the lack of control that had become prevalent during the end of the Kamakura period, Godaigo was unsuccessful. A regional military leader, Ashikaga Takauji, took advantage of the lack of stability and attacked the
3.2E. Life in a Castletown During the Tokugawa Period (A.D. 1603–1868)

What do you see? What is happening in this town? Where is the castle? How is it different from others you have seen? How is it similar? Why do you think it is located in the center of the town? Who do you think lives in it? What sorts of people do you suppose live or do business in this town?

In this slide we see a detail of a screen depicting the Nijo Castle, the headquarters of the Tokugawa family in Kyoto during the feudal era. A member of the family is leaving the castle to visit the Imperial palace and is receiving obeisance from the townspeople.

- Japan entered period of unity and growth with the ascendency of Tokugawa Ieyasu to the position of Shogun in A.D. 1603. Ieyasu, the leader of the powerful Tokugawa clan, had
urban pastimes called the *ukiyo-e* ("floating world"). The ukiyo-e’s frivolous life of wrestling matches, gambling halls, rowdy Kabuki theaters, and lavish restaurants was frowned upon by the samurai. Yet as castle towns and roadside cities grew, and chonin acquired more wealth, the Bakufu was helpless to regulate the ukiyo-e or the life of the chonin.

**Slide 3.2E: Life in a Castletown During the Tokugawa Period (A.D. 1603–1868)**

**Togukawa Ieyasu Closed Japan’s Doors**
- fought and used shrewd negotiations to bring all provinces under his control
- Japan entered period of unity and growth under Ieyasu
- established his shogunate at Edo (modern Tokyo)
- divided population into four classes: samurai, peasants, artisans, merchants
- Tokugawa’s measures isolated Japan from the rest of the world for over 200 years

**Artisans**
- armorers served the needs of the castic samurai
- carpenters erected and repaired buildings

**Feudal Castles**
- daimyo ruled provinces from their castles
- architecture funneled attacking troops into a bottleneck trap
- beautiful gardens and pools were inside the castle

**Merchants**
- were wealthiest members of castletowns
- barred from becoming samurai
- created separate forms of recreation: wrestling, gambling, and Kabuki

**Samurai**
- enforced laws rather than storming other castles
- helped daimyo collect taxes

**Castle towns Become Commercial Hubs**
- castles became centers of government administration
- towns grew up around castles and were populated by artisans and merchants
- inns, stables, and stores grew along routes between Edo and castletowns