

Japanese Periods Cheat Sheet

Version 3.0

Periods are listed chronologically. Pay special attention to **bolded terms**, which appear frequently in tossups.

Period	Decades	Details
Heian period	790s-1180s	imperial government centered in Heian-kyo. modern Kyoto ; dominated by the Fujiwara clan, who had repeatedly married into the imperial family; replaced by the Kamakura shogunate via the Genpei War ; included notable writings by members of the imperial court, such as Murasaki-shikibu's Tale of Genji (<i>Genji Monogatari</i>) and Sei-shonagon's Pillow Book (<i>Makura no Soshi</i>)
Kamakura shogunate	1180s-1330s	began when the Minamoto clan defeated the powerful Taira clan in the Genpei War , which included Minamoto no Yoritomo's decisive victory at the naval battle of Dan-no-Ura ; named for the bakufu (tent government) being centered in Kamakura; members of the Hojo clan served as shikken (regents); repelled an invasion attempt by Kublai Khan with the help of the kamikaze (divine wind), which pushed the Yuan ships off-course
Kenmu Restoration	1330s	Emperor Go-Daigo briefly overthrew the Kamakura with the help of Ashikaga Takauji (see below)
Ashikaga shogunate / Muromachi period	1330s-1570s	founded by Ashikaga Takauji, who overthrew the Kenmu Restoration; weakened to near-defeat by the Onin War, which kicked off the Sengoku period
Sengoku / Warring States	1460s-1610s	period of extreme conflict between daimyos , wealthy landowners, and their hired samurai ; Oda Nobunaga , a major unifier, officially overthrew the Ashikaga shogunate in the 1570s; after Oda's forced seppuku, Toyotomi Hideyoshi and Tokugawa Ieyasu finished his unification campaign and established the Tokugawa shogunate; from the 1500s, included infiltration by European influence
Tokugawa shogunate / Edo period	1600s-1868	founded by Tokugawa Ieyasu , who ended the Sengoku period with the battle of Sekigahara ; overthrown by the re-establishment of imperial rule in 1868; included Commodore Matthew Perry's arrival and demonstration of technological advancement in the 1850s and extreme isolationism; centered in Edo, modern Tokyo
Meiji era	1868-1912	took power after Tokugawa Yoshinobu's defeat in the Boshin War ; started with the Meiji Restoration , which returned full power to the imperial house, ending the era of the shoguns and creating an empire that lasted until the end of World War II; Emperor Meiji began his rule by signing the Charter Oath , considered Japan's first modern constitution, which opened Japan to western culture and rapid modernization; opposed by the Satsuma Rebellion , an uprising of disenfranchised samurai led by Saigo Takamori