



## JAPAN—Timeline of Historical Period

	<b>EARLY PERIOD</b>
ca. 4000 BCE	Jomon Prehistoric culture characterized by handmade pottery with rope pattern design
ca. 300 BCE	Yayoi Culture More advanced agricultural society, using metals and wheel-turned pottery
ca. 300 CE	Tomb Period  Kofun (250-538)   Asuka (538-710) Great earthen grave mounds and their funerary objects, such as clay haniwa — terra cotta figurines of people and animals, models of buildings and boats — attest to emergence of powerful clan rulers. Among these was the Yamato clan, whose rulers began the imperial dynasty that has continued to the present.
	<b>CLASSICAL PERIOD</b>
538 or 552 CE	Introduction of Buddhism
645 CE	Taika Reform Reorganization and reform based largely on learning imported from China: Buddhism, writing system, bureaucratic organization, legal theories.
710-814 CE	Nara Period Establishment of first permanent capital at Nara; emergence of Japanese patterns of administration and institutions. Beginning of classical period.
794-1185 CE	Heian Period Great flowering of classical Japanese culture in new capital of Heian-kyo (Kyoto). Court aristocracy, especially women, produced great body of literature — poetry, diaries, the novel <i>The Tale of Genji</i> — and made refined aesthetic sensibility their society's hallmark.
	<b>MEDIEVAL PERIOD</b>
1185-1333 CE	Kamakura Period Beginning of military rule, as samurai (warriors) replaced nobles as real rulers of Japan. Imperial court remained in Kyoto but shoguns governing organization based in Kamakura, south of modern Tokyo.

	<b>MEDIEVAL PERIOD</b>
1333-1336 CE	Kenmu Restoration
1336-1573 CE	<p><b>Ashikaga (Muromachi) Period</b>  New warrior government in Kyoto retained weak control of the country, but from its base in Kyoto's Muromachi district became patron of newly flourishing artistic tradition, influenced by Zen Buddhist culture as well as samurai and court society.</p> <p><b>Country at War</b>  Warring factions engaged in lengthy, destructive civil wars.</p>
1568-1598 CE	Unification
1600-1867 CE	<p><b>Tokugawa (Edo) Period</b>  Country unified under military government which maintained 250 years of secluded peace, leading to development of vibrant urban, "middle-class" culture with innovations in economic organization, literature, and the arts.</p>
	<b>MODERN PERIOD</b>
1868-1912 CE	<p><b>Meiji Period</b>  Emergence, with Western stimulus, into modern international world, marked by dramatic alterations in institutions, traditional social organization, and culture.</p>
1912-1926 CE	Taisho Era
1926-1989 CE	Showa Era
1945-present*	<p><b>Contemporary Japan:</b></p> <p>Heisei Era (1989-present)</p> <p>Reiwa (2019-present)</p>

Source: Prepared by Dr. Amy Vladeck Heinrich, Director, C.V. Starr East Asian Library, Columbia University, for the Columbia University Project on Asia in the Core Curriculum.

\* 2020. [http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/timelines/japan\\_timeline.htm#](http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/timelines/japan_timeline.htm#)

## WORKS OF ART

- ***Shuten Dōji at Ōeyama (Ōeyama Shuten dōji)***. 1858 (Edo period). Artist: Utagawa Yoshitsuya (1822-1866), Wood-block printed triptych; ink and color on paper. Harvard Art Museum, Harvard, MA.
- ***The Tale of Shuten Dōji***. Seventeenth century (Edo period), A pair of six-fold screens; ink, watercolor, and gold on paper, Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, National Museum of Asian Art, Washington DC.
- **Fan with Scene from the *Tale of Shuten Dōji***. Nineteenth century (Edo Period). Artist: Kawanabe Kyōsai (1831-1889), A Fan (mounted as an album leaf); ink and color on paper. Freer Gallery of Art, National Museum of Asian Art, Washington DC.
- ***The Tale of Shuten Dōji*** (alt. ***Tale of Ōeyama***). Seventeenth century (Edo period), Handscroll; ink, color, gold and silver on paper, Freer Gallery of Art, National Museum of Asian Art, Washington DC.
- ***The Tale of Shuten Dōji***. 1552 (Momoyama Period). Artist: Kanō Motonobu (1476-1559). Ink, color, gold on paper; a set of three handscrolls. Suntory Museum of Art, Tokyo.
- ***The Tale of Shuten Dōji***. Ca. 1700 (Edo Period). Ink, color, gold and silver on silk; a set of three handscrolls. Artist: Kanō Shōun (1637-1702) *Freer Gallery of Art, The National Museum of Asian Art, Washington DC.*

### *Calligraphers:*

Imperial Prince Fushiminomiya Kuninaga (1676-1726)

Higashizono Motokazu (1653-1710) (high court noble who lived in the mid Edo-period)

Nakayama Atsuchika (1656-1716)

<https://asia.si.edu/object/F1998.26.1/> (Scroll One)

<https://asia.si.edu/object/F1998.26.2/> (Scroll Two)

<https://asia.si.edu/object/F1998.26.3/> (Scroll Three)

**“Different Times, One Scene” (*iji dozu*)**: An artistic convention sometimes used in illustrated scenes of handscrolls, where the same characters appear twice in the same scene to show the passage of time.

- ***Minamoto no Yorimitsu and his Retainers Attacking Shuten Dōji***. 1851 (Edo Period). Artist: Utagawa Kuniyoshi (1797-1861), Woodblock print, 1851. Ink and colors on paper; wood-block printed triptych.