Name _____ Date _____

Feudal Japan: Shoguns, Daimyo and Samurai

Directions: Read the passage about shoguns, daimyo and samurai, and look over the table of shogunates. Many questions ask what a key word means or who a person was.

Shoguns, Daimyo and Samurai

Generals, Lords and Warriors

From the late 1100s until 1867, military rulers usually held the real power in Japan. The emperor kept his title and lived in Kyoto.

The first lasting military government began after the warrior Minamoto Yoritomo defeated a rival clan, the Taira. The emperor's court gave him the title **shogun**, meaning "general." Some books date the start of his rule to 1185, when he won the war, and others to 1192, when he became shogun. Yoritomo ruled from Kamakura, a town in eastern Japan. His government is called a **shogunate**.

Below the shogun were the **daimyo**, great lords who controlled large areas of land. Their title comes from words meaning "large" and "private land." Daimyo relied on **samurai**, trained warriors who served a lord. Samurai is often translated as "those who serve."

In the late 1400s and 1500s, shoguns grew weak and daimyo fought one another for land. In 1603, Tokugawa Ieyasu became shogun. The Tokugawa shoguns ruled from Edo, today's Tokyo, and kept Japan mostly at peace for more than 250 years.

Ideas about how warriors should act were old, but writers described **bushido**, "the way of the warrior," mostly during this peace and later. It was an ideal of loyalty, courage and honor. Real samurai did not always live up to it. In 1899, a book in English by Nitobe Inazo made the idea widely known.

In 1868, the emperor's supporters ended the shogunate and returned power to him. This change is called the **Meiji Restoration**. By the late 1870s, samurai had lost their special rights.

Japan's Three Shogunates

Shogunate	**City the shoguns ruled from**	**About when**
Kamakura	Kamakura, a town in eastern Japan	Late 1100s to 1333
Ashikaga	Kyoto, the emperor's city	1338 to 1573
Tokugawa	Edo, today's Tokyo	1603 to 1867

1. Which statement describes the emperor's place in Japan from the late 1100s until 1867?

A. There was no emperor in Japan at any time during these years.

B. The emperor ruled alone, and military rulers had no power at all.

C. The emperor kept his title, but military rulers usually held the real power.

D. The emperor and the shogun were always one and the same person.

2. Match each name or term from the passage about Japan to its description.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ shogun
2. _____ shogunate
3. _____ Taira
4. _____ Tokugawa Ieyasu
5. _____ Edo
6. _____ Kyoto

A. the city where the emperor lived

B. the leader who became shogun in 1603

C. the city now called Tokyo

D. the government run by a shogun

E. a rival clan defeated by Minamoto Yoritomo

F. the title, meaning general, held by Japan's top military ruler

G. a farmer who paid rice to a lord

H. a temple where monks lived and prayed

3. The title daimyo comes from words meaning "large" and "private land." How do these word parts fit the daimyo?

A. They were priests who lived in very large temples.

B. They were great lords who controlled large areas of land.

C. They were sailors who traded with lands overseas.

D. They were farmers who rented small plots from a lord.

4. According to the table, from which city did the first shogunate rule?

A. Edo B. Kyoto C. Kamakura D. Nara

5. Samurai is often translated as "those who serve." Which detail from the passage fits this meaning?

A. Samurai were trained warriors who served a lord.

B. Samurai wrote every book about bushido.

C. Samurai each had their own emperor.

D. Samurai ruled the whole country from Edo.

6. What does the passage say about bushido?

A. It was an ideal, described mostly later, that real samurai did not always meet.
B. It was a special kind of sword that only the shoguns were allowed to carry.
C. It was a new idea that a writer in England made up from nothing in 1899.
D. It was a strict written law that every single samurai obeyed at all times.

7. According to the passage, which two values were part of the bushido ideal? Select 2.

☐ A. loyalty ☐ B. wealth ☐ C. luxury ☐ D. honor

8. Using the table, which shogunate lasted the longest?

A. They all lasted about the same time. B. Ashikaga
C. Tokugawa D. Kamakura

9. The passage says shoguns grew weak in the late 1400s and 1500s. According to the table, which shogunate held power then?

A. Tokugawa B. Meiji C. Ashikaga D. Kamakura

10. In the term Meiji Restoration, what does restoration mean?

A. the start of a new and stronger shogunate
B. the end of all fighting everywhere in the world
C. the return of power to the emperor
D. the building of a brand-new capital city

11. Why do books give two different years for the start of Yoritomo's rule?

A. Two different men named Yoritomo ruled Japan.
B. The emperor himself became shogun in one of those years.
C. Japan used no calendar of any kind at that time.
D. They count from two different events in Yoritomo's rise to power.