



PLANIT
TEACHERS

Exploring Japan under the Shogun: Understanding the Tokugawa Shogunate's Changing Foreign Policy

Student Name: _____

Class: _____

Due Date: _____

Introduction

The Tokugawa Shogunate, which ruled Japan from 1603 to 1868, was a period of significant social, economic, and political change. During this time, the shoguns implemented a policy of isolationism, known as sakoku, which limited Japan's interaction with the rest of the world. However, as the 19th century progressed, Japan was forced to re-evaluate its foreign policy in response to growing pressure from Western powers.

Section 1: Multiple Choice Questions

1. What was the main reason for the Tokugawa Shogunate's isolationist foreign policy?

1. a) To prevent the spread of Christianity
2. b) To maintain the power of the shogunate
3. c) To promote trade and cultural exchange
4. d) To defend against foreign invasion

Answer: b) To maintain the power of the shogunate

2. Who was Commodore Matthew Perry, and what was his role in Japan's foreign policy?

1. a) A Japanese samurai who advocated for isolationism
2. b) An American naval officer who forced Japan to open its ports to trade
3. c) A European diplomat who negotiated the Treaty of Kanagawa
4. d) A Japanese merchant who traded with Western countries

Answer: b) An American naval officer who forced Japan to open its ports to trade

1. Describe the impact of the Tokugawa Shogunate's foreign policy on Japanese society.

Answer: The Tokugawa Shogunate's foreign policy had a significant impact on Japanese society. The policy of isolationism, known as sakoku, limited Japan's interaction with the rest of the world, preventing the influx of new ideas, technologies, and cultures. This led to a period of stagnation, and Japan fell behind other countries in terms of economic and technological development. However, the policy also allowed Japan to maintain its unique culture and traditions, and to develop a strong sense of national identity.

2. What were the main factors that contributed to the end of the Tokugawa Shogunate's foreign policy?

Answer: The main factors that contributed to the end of the Tokugawa Shogunate's foreign policy were the arrival of Commodore Matthew Perry and the subsequent forced opening of Japan to the West. The Tokugawa Shogunate was unable to resist the pressure from Western powers, and was forced to sign the Treaty of Kanagawa, which marked the beginning of Japan's modernization and emergence as a major world power. Internal pressures, such as the growing influence of the Meiji faction, also contributed to the end of the Tokugawa Shogunate's foreign policy.

Section 3: Essay Question

Choose one of the following essay questions and answer it in approximately 250-300 words.

1. Analyze the significance of the Tokugawa Shogunate's foreign policy in shaping Japan's relationships with other nations.
2. Evaluate the impact of the Tokugawa Shogunate's foreign policy on Japanese society, including its economic, cultural, and social implications.

Read the following primary source and answer the questions that follow:

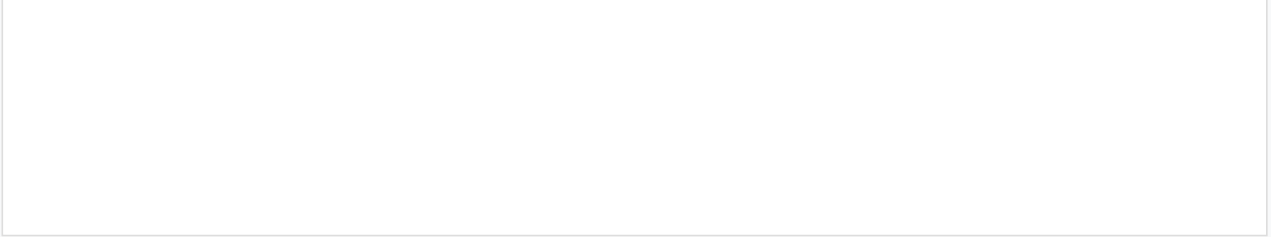
Excerpt from the Tokugawa Shogunate's official documents:

"The Tokugawa Shogunate has decreed that all foreign trade and contact shall be strictly limited, and that any attempts to violate this decree shall be punished severely."

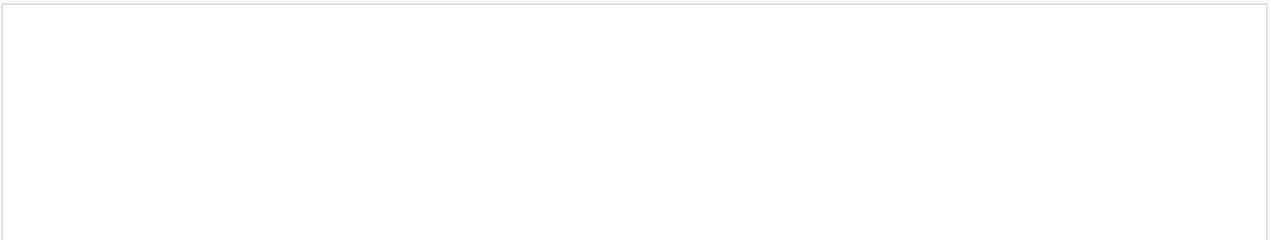
1. What is the main purpose of this decree?
2. What does this decree reveal about the Tokugawa Shogunate's attitude towards foreign trade and contact?
3. How does this decree reflect the Tokugawa Shogunate's foreign policy?

Section 5: Activities

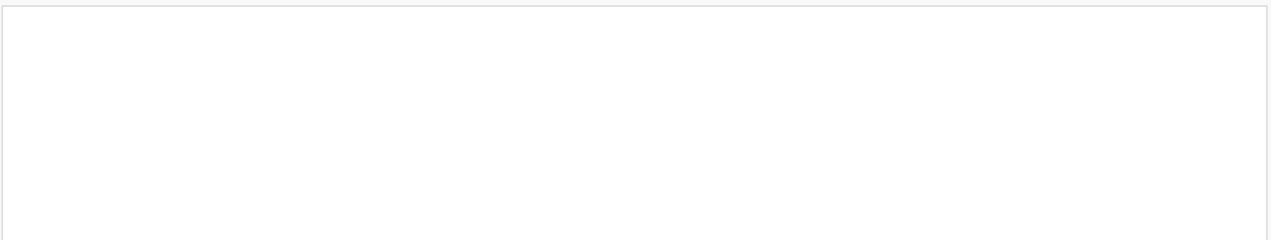
1. Create a timeline of the key events and factors that contributed to the changing foreign policy of the Tokugawa Shogunate.



2. Imagine you are a Japanese samurai living during the Tokugawa period. Write a diary entry describing your thoughts and feelings about the Tokugawa Shogunate's foreign policy.



3. Design a poster or infographic that illustrates the impact of the Tokugawa Shogunate's foreign policy on Japanese society.



Conclusion

In conclusion, the Tokugawa Shogunate's foreign policy was a complex and significant aspect of Japanese history. Through this worksheet, students have explored the key events and factors that contributed to the changing foreign policy of the Tokugawa Shogunate, and examined the impact of these changes on Japanese society. By analyzing primary and secondary sources, and completing a range of activities, students have developed a deeper understanding of this pivotal period in Japanese history.