

**7.29 Trace the emergence of the Japanese nation during the Nara, 710-794, and the Heian periods, 794-1180**

# Background

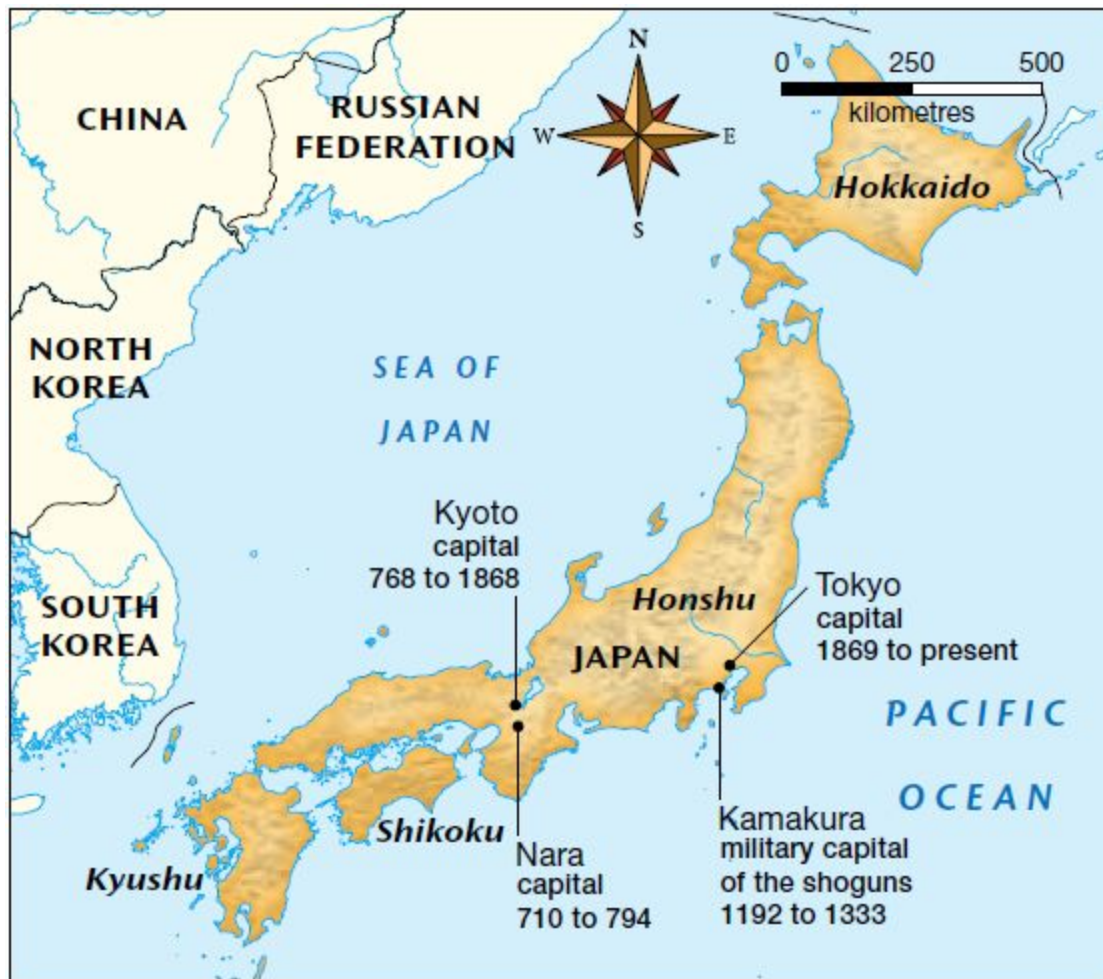
- The Yamato
  - During the 500s, a clan called the Yamato ruled Japan
  - Yamato chiefs claimed they were descended from a sun goddess
  - They had the right to rule Japan

# Background

- Prince Shotoku
  - Around 600, he ruled Japan with his aunt
  - Wanted to give Japan a strong well-organized government based on Confucian ideas
  - Worked to spread Buddhism

# The Nara Period

- In the early 700s, Japanese emperors built the first permanent capital city called Nara
- Government officials were ranked into a hierarchy
- Positions were given to nobles from powerful families



# The Nara Period

- Buddhist teachings reached Japan from Korea in 500s
- Buddhism was most highly developed during the Nara Period
- In 770, a Buddhist monk tried to seize the throne, so the emperor moved the capital



# The Heian Period

- In 794, the emperor of Japan moved the capital from Nara to Heian
- This city looked a lot like a major Chinese city
- Heian Period became “the Golden Age of Arts”