

**7.30 Describe how the Heian  
(contemporary Kyoto)  
aristocracy created enduring  
Japanese cultural perspectives  
that are epitomized in works of  
prose such as The Tale of Genji,  
one of the world's first novels**

# Heian Aristocracy

- Nobles and common people had little to do with each other
- Nobles seldom left the city
- Nobles wore clothes of silk robes and gold jewelry
- Women wore long gowns made of 12 layers of colored silk cleverly cut and folded to show off many layers at once

# Heian Aristocracy

- The most popular art forms of the period were:
  - Paintings
  - Calligraphy
  - Architecture



# Heian Aristocracy

- Literature
  - The Tale of the Genji
    - World's first novel
    - Describes the romances and adventures of a Japanese prince
    - Written by Murasaki Shikibu, who was a lady-in-waiting in the royal court
  - Poetry--followed specific structure
    - Waka and Haiku

