

Bell Work

- Read *The First Japanese* and *The First Emperors* on p. 442 - 443.
- Answer the following questions:
 - What is Kami?
 - What is Shinto?
 - How did the traditional religious beliefs of Japan influence the first Emperors?

Japan Lesson 3

I can explain the similarities and differences between Shinto and Japanese Buddhism.

7.27 Compare the major features of Shinto, Japan's indigenous religion, and Japanese Buddhism.

Essential Questions

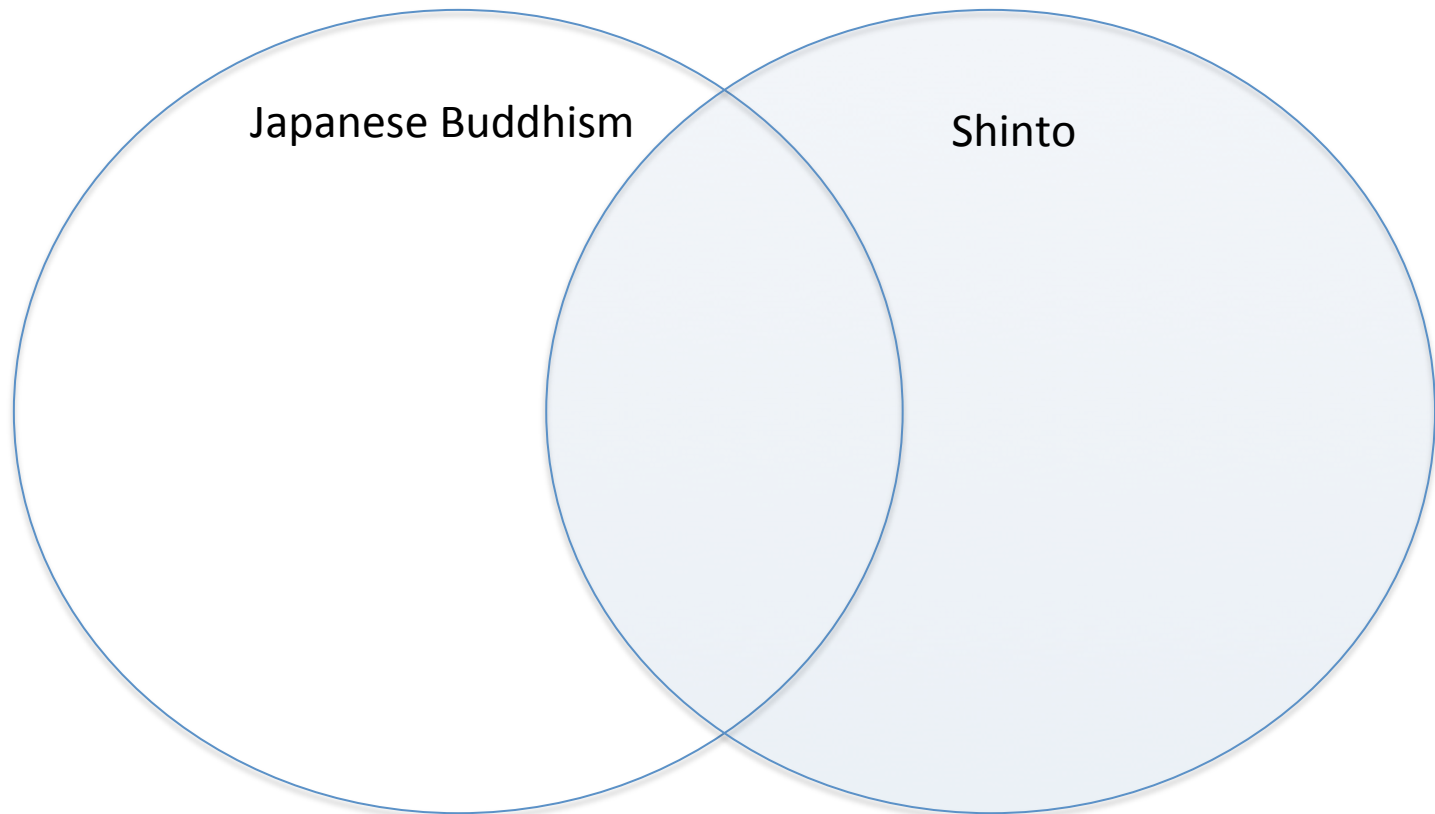
- What are the two major religions in Japan?
- How did those religions begin in Japan?
- What major similarities and differences can you find between the two religions?
- Why do you think other religions like Christianity and Islam are in the minority in Japan?

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWRSjjeo0CY#t=90>

What Mastery Looks Like

- **By the end of this lesson, you will be able to fill out this Venn Diagram...**



Shinto Beliefs

- The essence of Shinto is the Japanese devotion to invisible spiritual beings and powers called kami, to shrines, and to various rituals.



Shinto Beliefs

- **Kami are not God or gods. They are spirits that are concerned with human beings - they appreciate our interest in them and want us to be happy - and if they are treated properly they will intervene in our lives to bring benefits like health, business success, and good exam results.**
- **Shinto is not a way of explaining the world. What matters are rituals that enable human beings to communicate with kami.**

Shinto Beliefs

- **Purification**
 - Purity is at the heart of Shinto's understanding of good and evil.
 - Impurity in Shinto refers to anything which separates people from kami.
- **Worship**
 - Although Shinto worship features public and shared rituals at local shrines, it can also be a private and individual event, in which a person at a shrine (or in their home) prays to particular kami either to obtain something, or to thank the kami for something good that has happened.
- **Rituals**
 - Shinto priests perform Shinto rituals and often live on the shrine grounds. Men and women can become priests, and they are allowed to marry and have children. Priests are aided by younger women (miko) during rituals and shrine tasks. Miko wear white kimono, must be unmarried, and are often the priests' daughters.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6oXto-TlvQs>

Shinto Questions

- According to Shinto teachings, everything in nature has kami.
 - Why would nature be so important to Japanese?
- Many Shinto shrines are places of intense calm with beautiful gardens.
 - Why would shrines be placed in such beautiful places?

Buddhism Beliefs

- Buddhism is a tradition that focuses on personal spiritual development. Buddhists strive for a deep insight into the true nature of life and do not worship gods or deities.

Buddhism Beliefs

- Buddhists seek to reach a state of *nirvana*, following the path of the Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, who went on a quest for Enlightenment around the sixth century BC.
- There is no belief in a personal god. The path to Enlightenment is through the practice and development of morality, meditation and wisdom.
- Buddhists believe that life is both endless and subject to impermanence, suffering and uncertainty. Existence is endless because individuals are reincarnated over and over again, experiencing suffering throughout many lives.

Buddhism Key Facts

- There is no belief in a personal God.
- Buddhists believe change is always possible
- Buddhists can worship both at home or at a temple.
- The path to Enlightenment is through the practice and development of morality, meditation, and wisdom.
- We will discuss more about Zen Buddhism when we study the Heian period.

Buddhism

- <http://video.about.com/buddhism/What-Is-Buddhism-.htm>

Buddhism

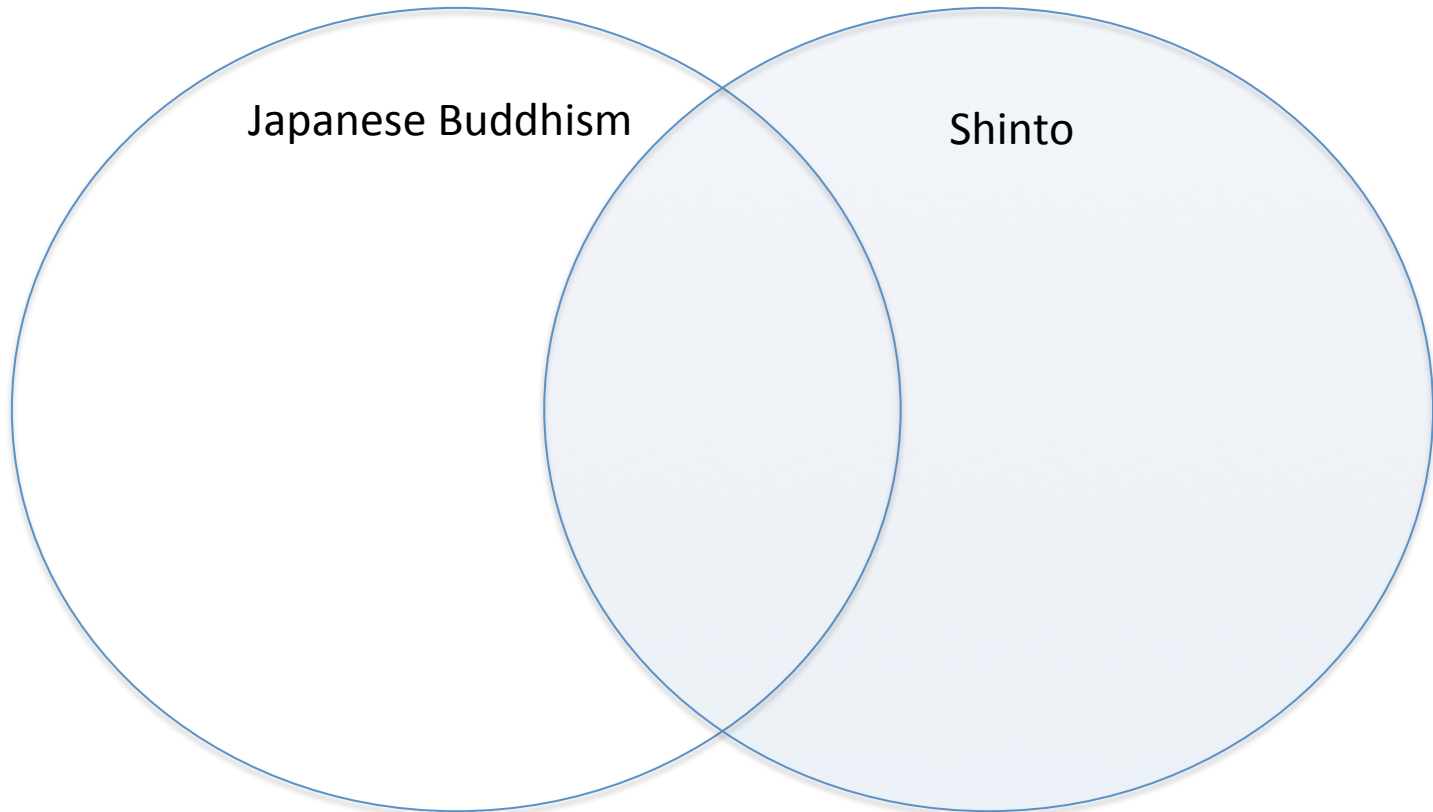
- The Four Noble Truths contain the essence of the Buddha's teachings. It was these four principles that the Buddha came to understand during his meditation under the bodhi tree.
 - The truth of suffering (Dukkha)
 - The truth of the origin of suffering (Samudāya)
 - The truth of the cessation of suffering (Nirodha)
 - The truth of the path to the cessation of suffering (Magga)
- The Buddha is often compared to a physician. In the first two Noble Truths he diagnosed the problem (suffering) and identified its cause. The third Noble Truth is the realization that there is a cure.

Buddhism Questions

- Why would Japanese be willing to accept Buddhism?

Exit Ticket

- **Complete...**



Sources

- <http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2056.html>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/shinto/>