The Influence of Neighboring Cultures on Japan

Section 2
1. Students’ maps should have labels for Japan, India, China, and Korea. Each country should be a different color.
2. Prince Shotoku was a regent under the Empress Suiko. He came to power when his family became powerful enough to loosely control all of Japan.
3. Type of Society: agricultural society; Main Crop: rice; Family Life: centered around the mother; Government: power divided among uji
4. Knowledge of Asian mainland culture came to Japan from Japanese who traveled to China, through gifts sent from the mainland to Japan, and from Korean workers who settled in Japan.

Section 3
1.
2. Before it was influenced by countries on the mainland, Japan’s government was ruled by an emperor who had loose control over semi-independent clans called uji. Each uji controlled the land but often struggled with other uji for power.
3. The Japanese adopted the idea of a strong emperor when Prince Shotoku issued the Seventeen Article Constitution based upon Chinese ideas. However, Japan did not accept the idea of government officials being appointed based on ability. By the ninth century, nobles held all high government positions.

Section 4
1.

Letters of the Matching Cards | F | I
---|---|---
Country the Card Represents | Japan | China

2. The design of the new capital city of Nara resembled the design of the Chinese capital, Chang’an. Its streets were laid out in an orderly pattern and a wide boulevard ran down the center.
3. Nara was smaller and did not have a wall.

Section 5
1.

Letters of the Matching Cards | O | L
---|---|---
Country the Card Represents | India | Japan
2. Before it was influenced by countries on the mainland, Japan’s original religion was Shinto, which expresses love and respect for nature. Its followers worship spirits called kami. Shinto stresses purifying whatever is unclean and celebrating life and the beauty of nature.

3. The Japanese adopted the Mahayana form of Buddhism, which came to Japan from China by way of Korea. This type of Buddhism says that all people can reach enlightenment. However, the religion of Shinto still survived and was sometimes blended with Buddhism.

Section 6
1.

2. Before it was influenced by countries on the mainland, Japan had only a spoken language. Written documents were in Chinese.

3. The Japanese adopted the Chinese writing system and invented kanji and kana to adapt Chinese characters to their own language.

Letters of the Matching Cards | M | K
--- | --- | ---
Country the Card Represents | China | Japan

Section 7
1.

2. The Japanese developed a new form of poetry called tanka that was based on Chinese poetry forms. A tanka poem has 31 syllables divided into lines of 5, 7, 5, 7, and 7 syllables.

Letters of the Matching Cards | J | G
--- | --- | ---
Country the Card Represents | China | Japan

Section 8
1.

2. Before they were influenced by countries on the mainland, Japanese sculptures consisted of clay figures that were probably meant to accompany or protect the dead.

Letters of the Matching Cards | A | H
--- | --- | ---
Country the Card Represents | China | Japan
3. Japanese sculptures of Buddha, like those of China and Korea, often show Buddha in the same pose. In contrast, Japanese sculptors preferred to work in wood and often added original touches to their carvings.

Section 9
1.

2. In India, Buddhist monasteries had shrines called stupas, with bell-shaped roofs. The Chinese changed stupas to pagodas, having several stories and curved roofs. The Japanese adopted the Chinese pagoda design for their Buddhist temples.

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<tr>
<th>Letters of the Matching Cards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country the Card Represents</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>Japan</td>
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Section 10
1.

2. Before it was influenced by the countries on the mainland, Japan's music consisted of chanted poems, war songs, folk songs, and prayers. All were recited and used only a few notes.

3. The Japanese adopted a Chinese instrument called a sheng, a type of mouth organ, which they called a sho.