Regional Interactions: Japan
Japanese cultural development was influenced by proximity to China. Shinto and Buddhism coexisted as religious traditions in the Japanese culture.
Location

• Mountainous Japanese Archipelago
• Sea of Japan or East Sea between Japan and Asian mainland
• Proximity to China and Korea
Influence of Chinese Culture

- Writing
- Architecture
- Buddhism
Shinto

• Ethnic religion unique to Japan
• Importance of natural features, forces of nature, and ancestors
• State religion; worshipping the emperor
• Coexistence with Buddhism
Kami = divine spirits dwelled in nature

Torii gate: traditional gate entrance to Shinto shrine
Samurai: warriors who served to protect landowners as military/government became corrupt.

Samurai served feudal lords and lived by a code of honor called Bushido.
Japan declined after successfully fighting off the Mongols in 1281 CE.