

Understanding the Chinese Influence on Japan

Directions: You will receive a placard that depicts an aspect of Japanese culture. Examine the picture and then find the written description of Chinese culture posted on the wall that best corresponds to your placard. Write the topic of the description in the column below. Then carefully read the description about China and list the Chinese influences you see in the placard. You will fill out the last column later in the activity.

Topic	Chinese Influences I See	How These Influences Became Part of Japanese Culture
 <p>Buddhism</p>		
 <p>Confucianism</p>		
 <p>Government</p>		
 <p>Architecture</p>		

Topic

Chinese Influences I See

**How These Influences
Became Part of Japanese Culture**

 Written Language		
 City Planning		
 Attire (Dress)		
 Painting		
 Music		

Understanding Chinese Influences on Japan

Topic	Chinese Influences I See	How These Became Part of Japanese Culture
Buddhism	Originated in India; Introduced to China during Han Dynasty; Used to decorate shrines and temples	Japanese Buddhism adopted many Chinese gods; Most Japanese worshipped two religions
Confucianism	The needs of the family outweighed those of the individual; Confucianism revolved around five relationships	Chinese monks brought Buddhism and Confucianism to Japan; Many Japanese women entered into arranged marriages
Government	Emperor given authority to rule by heaven; The wealthy enjoyed special privileges	The Chinese system of government was never fully used in Japan; Power rested with the samurai
Architecture	Homes and buildings made with many roofs; They could withstand most earthquakes	Multiple roofs were built to symbolize the levels of Buddhism
Written Language	Chinese don't use an alphabet; Most characters are written with a brush; Chinese has more than 30,000 characters	Chinese was poorly suited for writing Japanese; The Japanese altered China's language into hiranga; This increased literacy throughout Japan
City Planning	Cities were square and faced south; Streets were laid out in straight lines. Different classes of people lived in different sections of town	The Japanese copied the Chinese layout of a city; Some leaders merged Japanese street designs with more traditional Chinese ones
Dress	Most clothing was made of cotton; Important people wore special dragon robes; Color and design indicated their rank and status	The Japanese borrowed the ideas of layering their clothes and carrying fans and umbrellas from the Chinese; The kimono became a very popular item to wear
Painting	The Japanese created ink and water color paintings; Landscape paintings were very popular; They used monochrome colors in their paintings	Some Chinese techniques were used but the Japanese created their own style
Music	Two major types of music were played- court music and folk music; Instruments were made with metal, skin, wood, and other materials; Chanting was also popular	Japanese Buddhists visited Chinese monasteries to learn their style of music; The Japanese created their own style of music called Gagaku