Armies Across the Sea

Trace how military power in Japan led to war in Korea.

SS24.8.16a "Trace the rise of militarism in Japan and explain how it led to the invasion of Korea."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline changes that made Japan's armies stronger. Number the steps that led from Japan's unification to the invasion of Korea.

From Rival Warlords to Invasion

1. In the 1500s, Japan was divided among rival warlords called daimyo. Each daimyo relied on samurai and foot soldiers to defend land and seize more of it. Years of fighting rewarded leaders who could train large armies, build castles, and supply troops. Matchlock guns brought by Portuguese traders in 1543 gave some armies another powerful weapon. Oda Nobunaga used armed forces to defeat rivals and began unifying Japan. Power increasingly depended on military strength, not just a leader's family name.

2. After Nobunaga's death, Toyotomi Hideyoshi continued his campaigns and completed the unification of Japan by 1590. He kept control over armed leaders and restricted who could carry swords. The battles that had built his power left Japan with many experienced soldiers and commanders. Hideyoshi now aimed to conquer Ming China. To reach China, his troops first needed to land in Korea and march across it. He demanded that Korea allow his troops to pass, but Korea refused. Hideyoshi chose force rather than giving up his plan.

3. In 1592, Hideyoshi sent a large army across the sea to invade Korea. Japanese troops captured cities, including Seoul, but they faced Korean resistance on land and at sea. Admiral Yi Sun-sin's fleet attacked Japanese supply ships, making it harder for the invaders to feed and equip their troops. Ming China also sent forces to help Korea. After peace talks failed, Japan launched another invasion in 1597. Hideyoshi died in 1598, and Japanese forces withdrew. Military unification had made invasion possible, but the campaigns failed to conquer Korea or China.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did years of fighting among daimyo strengthen Japan's armies?

2. How did military power help Japan become unified under Nobunaga and Hideyoshi?

3. Why did Hideyoshi's plan to conquer Ming China lead him to invade Korea?

4. How did fighting at sea weaken the invasion after Japanese troops captured Korean cities?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are an adviser to Korea's ruler in 1591. Write a brief warning that connects changes in Japan to the threat of invasion, using two details from the passage, and predict one risk for Korea.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 8 · SS24.8.16a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline changes that made Japan's armies stronger. Number the steps that led from Japan's unification to the invasion of Korea. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did years of fighting among daimyo strengthen Japan's armies?	**Fighting rewarded leaders who trained large armies and learned to supply them. Some armies also gained matchlock guns.**
2	How did military power help Japan become unified under Nobunaga and Hideyoshi?	**Nobunaga used armed forces to defeat rivals. Hideyoshi continued the campaigns and completed unification by 1590.**
3	Why did Hideyoshi's plan to conquer Ming China lead him to invade Korea?	**His troops needed to cross Korea to reach China. When Korea refused to let them pass, he sent an army to invade.**
4	How did fighting at sea weaken the invasion after Japanese troops captured Korean cities?	**Admiral Yi Sun-sin's fleet attacked Japanese supply ships, making it harder to feed and equip the invading troops.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Japan's ruler has united the country after years of war, leaving him with experienced soldiers and commanders. Hideyoshi wants to conquer Ming China, and his troops would have to cross Korea to reach it. Because Korea has refused to let them pass, he may send his army here by force. Our cities could be attacked.

Accept explanations that link Japan's growing military strength and unification to Hideyoshi's ability to invade. For the warning, the predicted risk should be plausible from the passage and supported by the stated details.