

Rebuilding Japan

Trace how U.S. occupation policies influenced Japan after World War II.

SS7H3.c "Explain the role of the United States in the rebuilding of Japan after WWII."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action taken by the United States, then circle the words that explain how that action affected Japan's rebuilding.

After the War

- ① After Japan surrendered in 1945, the United States led the Allied occupation of Japan. General Douglas MacArthur served as Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, or SCAP. The occupation did not turn Japan into a U.S. colony. Japanese officials continued to run many daily services, while U.S. occupation leaders set major goals. Their first tasks included demobilizing Japan's military, removing wartime leaders from power, and helping provide food and basic supplies in cities damaged by bombing.
- ② In 1946 and 1947, occupation authorities worked with Japanese leaders on political changes. Japan adopted a new constitution in 1947. It gave women the right to vote, strengthened the elected parliament, and stated that the emperor was a symbol rather than a ruler with political power. Article 9 renounced war and said Japan would not maintain armed forces for war. U.S. officials also supported land reform, which transferred land from many large landlords to tenant farmers.
- ③ Rebuilding also meant restarting an economy harmed by war. The United States sent aid and encouraged policies that increased production. When the Korean War began in 1950, U.S. military forces placed large orders with Japanese businesses for supplies and repairs. These orders helped factories hire workers and earn money. In 1952, the occupation ended, and Japan regained full sovereignty. U.S. actions shaped the recovery, but Japanese workers, voters, business owners, and leaders made choices that carried rebuilding forward.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did U.S. leadership of the Allied occupation affect who set Japan's major rebuilding goals?

2 How did U.S. occupation authorities help change Japan's government? Give one change made by the new constitution.

3 How did U.S. military orders during the Korean War help Japan's economic recovery?

4 Why would it be inaccurate to say that the United States rebuilt Japan by itself?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write 4 or 5 sentences explaining the U.S. role in rebuilding Japan after World War II. Include two U.S. actions and the effect of each action, then end by naming one contribution Japanese people made.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each action taken by the United States, then circle the words that explain how that action affected Japan's rebuilding. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did U.S. leadership of the Allied occupation affect who set Japan's major rebuilding goals?	U.S. occupation leaders set the major goals, while Japanese officials continued to run many daily services.
2	How did U.S. occupation authorities help change Japan's government? Give one change made by the new constitution.	They worked with Japanese leaders on a new constitution. It gave women the vote, strengthened the elected parliament, and made the emperor a symbol instead of a political ruler.
3	How did U.S. military orders during the Korean War help Japan's economic recovery?	The orders gave Japanese businesses work supplying and repairing goods, helping factories hire workers and earn money.
4	Why would it be inaccurate to say that the United States rebuilt Japan by itself?	U.S. actions shaped recovery, but Japanese workers, voters, business owners, and leaders made choices that moved rebuilding forward.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During the occupation, U.S. authorities worked with Japanese leaders on a new constitution, which expanded voting rights and limited the emperor's political power. The United States also supported land reform, which transferred land to many tenant farmers. U.S. aid and military orders during the Korean War helped Japanese businesses produce goods and hire workers. Japanese workers, voters, business owners, and leaders made decisions that continued rebuilding.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect a specific U.S. action to its effect on Japan's government, economy, or recovery. For the open response, look for at least two accurate action-and-effect connections and a clear statement that Japanese people also contributed.