Power and Its Price

Trace the causes and costs of Japan's rapid transformation.

7.H.12 "Analyze Japan's rapid transformation (1868-1945) from an isolated feudal society to a global industrial power, and evaluate the causes and consequences of its involvement in World War II."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two changes that helped Japan become an industrial power, circle two reasons its leaders chose expansion or war, and write 1 and 2 beside two different consequences of those choices. Use your marks to trace causes to effects.

Japan Changes Course

1. In 1868, Japan's new Meiji leaders took power after centuries of rule by shoguns and regional lords. Japan had limited trade with a few foreign partners, not complete isolation. When Western warships pressed Japan to open ports, leaders feared that stronger countries might control it. They ended the old domain system, built a national army, and sent students abroad to study new technology. The government opened schools that taught skills useful in factories and offices. These changes strengthened the central government and helped Japan resist foreign pressure.

2. By the early 1900s, railroads linked cities, and factories made cloth and steel. Government investment and imported machines helped industry grow, while many workers faced long hours and low pay. Japan sought raw materials and markets beyond its islands. Its leaders won wars against China and Russia and took control of Korea in 1910. This empire made Japan a major power, but people under its rule lost freedom. Industrial growth gave Japan weapons and ships, while expansion created conflicts with its neighbors.

3. In the 1930s, military leaders gained influence and pushed for more territory and resources. Japan seized Manchuria in 1931 and launched a wider war in China in 1937. After the United States restricted oil exports to Japan, Japan's leaders chose to attack Pearl Harbor in 1941, bringing the United States into the war. Japan conquered more territory, but the war killed millions across Asia and the Pacific. In 1945, after atomic bombings and the Soviet Union's entry into the war, Japan surrendered. U.S.-led occupation followed, and Japan adopted a new constitution.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did fear of foreign control help drive Japan's changes after 1868? Explain how one change strengthened Japan.

2. How did industrial growth increase Japan's power while also creating a cost for people in Japan?

3. How did the search for resources and the U.S. oil restriction influence Japan's actions before and during World War II?

4. How did Japan's wartime choices affect people across Asia and the Pacific and change Japan after the war?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence museum label titled "The Price of Power." Explain how a Meiji change helped industry, who gained and who paid a cost during expansion, and how a wartime decision shaped Japan's future. Use details from all three paragraphs and give your judgment about whether the gains were worth the costs.

ANSWER KEY

Power and Its Price

GRADE 7 · 7.H.12

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two changes that helped Japan become an industrial power, circle two reasons its leaders chose expansion or war, and write 1 and 2 beside two different consequences of those choices. Use your marks to trace causes to effects. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did fear of foreign control help drive Japan's changes after 1868? Explain how one change strengthened Japan.	**Western pressure made leaders fear foreign control. Opening schools taught skills useful in factories and offices, helping Japan build its industry.**
2	How did industrial growth increase Japan's power while also creating a cost for people in Japan?	**Factories helped Japan produce weapons and ships, but many workers faced long hours and low pay.**
3	How did the search for resources and the U.S. oil restriction influence Japan's actions before and during World War II?	**Military leaders pushed to gain territory and resources. After the United States restricted oil exports, Japan's leaders chose to attack Pearl Harbor.**
4	How did Japan's wartime choices affect people across Asia and the Pacific and change Japan after the war?	**The war killed millions across Asia and the Pacific. Japan surrendered, came under U.S.-led occupation, and adopted a new constitution.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Price of Power: Meiji leaders opened schools that taught skills for factory and office work, helping Japan build industry. Factories and railroads gave Japan economic strength, but many workers faced long hours and low pay. Japan's leaders expanded their empire to gain raw materials and markets, while people under its rule lost freedom. After an oil restriction, leaders attacked Pearl Harbor, and the war ended with millions dead, surrender, and a new constitution. I think the drive for power cost too many lives and too much freedom to justify its gains.

Accept other passage-supported cause-and-effect links and judgments. For the museum label, check for five sentences, details from all three paragraphs, and a judgment supported by those details.