**Comparative Government Web Quest**

**Lesson 1**

***Directions:*** *Read and use the documents attached to each section (via Internet link) to answer the questions below. You may need to research some answers. You have the power of the Internet at your hands. If you do not understand something, look it up!*
**Part I: Japan’s Government Construction**

**Sources (2):** [Japan's Government](http://web-jpn.org/kidsweb/explore/government/index.html), [Governmental Structure](http://web-japan.org/factsheet/en/pdf/e08_governmental.pdf)

1. In what year was Japan’s current Constitution established?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the voting age in Japan? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. What are their three branches of government? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

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4A. How are the chambers in the Diet divided? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4B. What are the age requirement for the above?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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4C. How long are the terms? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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5. What is the Diet, and how does it compare the United States’ Congress?

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6. What powers are reserved for the Diet? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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7. In what circumstances will the Diet meet? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

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8. How long is the Diet’s normal session last? How does this differ from the United

States Congress? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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9. How is the Prime Minister elected?

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10. How do the citizens of Japan effect the government, as they do not directly elect the Prime Minister?

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11. How is the Supreme Court organized? Compared with the United States, what is different about the appointment of the judges and their terms?

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**Part II: Japan’s Constitution and the Emperor’s Role
Sources (3):** [Japan's Constitution](http://web-japan.org/kidsweb/explore/government/q1.html), [Japan's Emperor](http://web-japan.org/kidsweb/explore/imperial/q1.html), [Emperor and His Power](http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/new-japanese-constitution-goes-into-effect)

12. How did Japan’s new constitution differ from the previous one?

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13. What was the role of the emperor before the established Constitution (Pre World War II)?

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14. Using the information you know about World War II and from the above sources, why do you think Japan was allowed to keep the Emperor? Explain your answer in a clear and concise paragraph.
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15. How has the Emperor’s role changed? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

16A. What are the basic duties of the Emperor? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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16B. How do those roles differ from the President of the United States? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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17. What other nations are similar to Japan? (Limited Monarchy) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Part III: Your Quest**

**Sources: Find your own and note them below!**

18A. Who is the current Prime Minister of Japan? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

18B. What are the main issues he is currently dealing with?

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19. What are Japan’s current political and economic issues? Are any of them similar to the United States?
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20. How successful is their government in dealing with the above issues. (Suggestion: new laws, policies, practices, etc.)

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Other useful sources:

[Prime Minister and Cabinet of Japan's Website](http://japan.kantei.go.jp/index.html) : http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/index-e.html

[U.S. State Department: Japan](https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/japan.html)

[Heritage.org: Japan](http://www.heritage.org/Places/Asia-and-the-Pacific/Japan)