



New York State Education Department

Global History & Geography

online
resource
guide

Unit 3 A - Early Japanese history and feudalism

Life in the Floating World: Ukiyo-e Prints and the Rise of the Merchant Class in Edo Period Japan

Social Studies Standards 2, 3, and 4 - World History, Geography, and Economics
Key Ideas and Performance Indicators 2.1.1, 2.1.4, 2.3.1, 3.1.4, 4.1.1

Context:

The Edo Period (1603-1868) in Japan was a time of great change. The merchant class was growing in size, wealth, and power, and artists and craftsmen mobilized to answer the demands and desires of this growing segment of society. Perhaps the most well known art form that gained popularity during this period was the woodblock print, which is often referred to as ukiyo-e prints. In this lesson students will learn about life in Japan during the Edo period through an investigation of ukiyo-e prints.