

AP World History Modern
Unit 1 (1200-1450)
Topic: Feudal Japan
Time: 60 minutes

This lesson is not original to me, I adapted materials over the years and do not know the original source.

Set up: The room will need to be divided into sections: an area for each role-Samurai, Peasants, Artisans, Merchants. You can have students draw roles as they enter the room or assign them. You will need many sheets of blank white paper for peasants to produce rice and artisans to make goods as well as scissors to cut them out.

- [Artisan Goods](#)
- [Peasant Rice](#)
- [Name Tags/Desk Signs](#)

Prior to the SPAM simulation I conduct a “Feudal Skittles” simulation about European Feudalism

Objective: TSW investigate and experience life during the Kamakura period IOT draw comparisons between the feudal systems of Europe and Japan.

Hook: What do you think the acronym SPAM stands for during the Kamakura period in Japan? (Samurai, Peasants, Artisans, Merchants) [Slides](#)

Activities:

1. Introduce the social hierarchy in Japan during the Kamakura period
 - a. Draw on the previous simulation, asking students which roles are similar to those of feudal Europe
2. Complete the SPAM simulation following the steps in the slides presentation
3. Debrief the simulation with the reflection questions in the slides presentation

Assessment: Students will complete a [Venn diagram](#) comparing European and Japanese Feudalism and respond to the questions.