

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

# Performance Task – CCOT: Shared Ethnicity and New National Identities

## Goal of task

**Target concept:** You will understand the evolution of Japanese national identity under the Meiji Restoration and will analyze how exposure to Western culture both continued and challenged traditional Japanese social and cultural identities.

For this task you will be evaluated on your ability to:

- Analyze how evolving national identity influenced independence movements by examining the context of the Meiji Restoration, as well as the resulting reflections of the evolving national identity in the context of artwork.
- Analyze how emerging notions of race coincided with the rise of nation-states through an examination of the emerging Japanese identity during the Meiji Restoration and the development of Japanese self-perception through a study of art.

## Task summary

Today's activity will ask you to examine how the isolated shogunates of Japan developed into a unified national identity throughout the Meiji Restoration. You will examine both what elements of traditional Japanese culture continued to be implemented in the developing national identity, and how elements of Western culture led the Japanese to both change and confirm their historical cultural identities.

## Task 1: Meiji Restoration and Japanese identity (Individual or small groups)

Have students complete the discussion questions listed below in small groups. These questions can be answered orally as a small group discussion or can be completed on paper as an understanding check.

Read the Meiji Restoration text “The Meiji Restoration and Modernization.” In small groups, complete the discussion questions. [http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/special/japan\\_1750\\_meiji.htm](http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/special/japan_1750_meiji.htm)

1. What person or position was at the center of Japan's new civic ideology under the Meiji Restoration? Why was using this person as a symbol of national unity effective? How did the traditional role of the emperor change and continue?
2. How did the role of the samurai change under the Meiji Restoration? What elements of samurai culture continued?
3. The terms “modernized” and “westernized” are sometimes used interchangeably when describing the Meiji Restoration. Do you think these terms are interchangeable? How did the Meiji government both embrace modernization and at the same time create a specifically Japanese national identity?

### Check your understanding

- Can you identify what changed socially during the Meiji Restoration in Japan?
- Can you identify what stayed the same socially during the Meiji Restoration in Japan?
- Can you identify other aspects of life in Japan that changed during the Meiji Restoration?

## Task 2: Interpreting Japanese Art (In groups)

### Definitions of Japanese artistic styles

- **Nihonga Painting:** Painting using the traditional Japanese materials and techniques
- **Yōga Painting:** literally “western style” painting; adopting Western methods and materials.

Closely examine the image you have been given. In the context of what you have learned about the Meiji Restoration, identify how the image you have (and the type of art) reflects both **continuities and changes** in the evolving Japanese national identity. You will then discuss the images and your responses.

### Meiji Restoration Art

#### Art Image 1: *Meiji Constitution* (1889) by Toyohara Chikanobu (Nihonga)



Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meiji\\_Constitution#/media/File:Kenpohapu-chikanobu.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meiji_Constitution#/media/File:Kenpohapu-chikanobu.jpg)

1. Changes:
2. Continuities:

Art Image 2: *Daughter Miyuki* (1914) by Uemura Shōen (Nihonga)



Source: [https://www.adachi-museum.or.jp/en/archives/collection/uemura\\_shoen](https://www.adachi-museum.or.jp/en/archives/collection/uemura_shoen)

3. Changes:
4. Continuities:



**Art Image 3: *Mother and Child* (1934) by Uemura Shōen (Nihonga)**



Source: National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo. <https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/asset-viewer/mother-and-child/FgHYn3Jd-CJrpg?hl=en>

5. Changes:
6. Continuities:

**Art Image 4: Maiko Girl (1893) by Kuroda Seiki (Yōga)**



Source: Cleveland Museum of Art, Tokyo National Museum, A-11258. Important Cultural Property. <http://www.clevelandart.org/sites/default/files/Maiko-Girl.jpg>

- 7. Changes:
- 8. Continuities:

**Art Image 5: *The Heavenly Maiden in the Legend of Hagoromo* (1890) by Honda Kinichiro (Yōga)**



Source: <https://eljapan.files.wordpress.com/2012/04/honda-kinichiro-heavenly-maiden-legend-of-hagoromo1.jpg>

9. Changes:

10. Continuities:



### Task 3: Apply Your Understanding

Using what you have learned about the Meiji Restoration, respond to all parts of the following short-answer question.

1. Explain ONE way in which the Meiji Restoration represented a continuity with Japan's past.
2. Explain ONE way in which it represented a change from Japan's past.
3. Explain ONE way in which the Meiji Restoration and its effects helped to develop a uniquely Japanese national identity.