I can trace the emergence of the Japanese nation during the Heian period.

7.29 Trace the emergence of the Japanese nation during the Nara, 710-794, and the Heian periods, 794-1180.

**Essential Questions**

- When was the Heian period?
- What significant changes happened in Japan during this time?
- What was life like during the Heian period?
When was the Heian period?

The Heian = Golden Age of Arts
Japanese Nobles Create Great Art

- Read *Building Background* on p. 446.
- The nobles who followed Japan's emperor to Heian (now called Kyoto) wanted to win his favor by living close to him. In Heian, these nobles created an imperial court.

Why was it important for nobles to have the favor of the emperor?

Japanese Nobles Create Great Art

- Nobles and Common People had little to do with each other.
- Nobles seldom left the city.
- They loved beauty and elegance.
- Because of this love, the court at Heian became a great center of culture and learning.
Fashion

• The Heian nobles had magnificent wardrobes with silk robes and gold jewelry.
• They loved elaborate outfits.
• Women wore long gowns made of 12 layers of colored silk cleverly cut and folded to show off many layers at once.

Why was fashion so important? Do you think fashion is still a big deal in modern society?

Literature

• Japanese nobles took great care with how they spoke and wrote.
• Writing was very popular among nobles.
• Many women wrote diaries and journals about their lives at court.
• In their diaries, the women did everything they could to make their writing beautiful.
• Men wrote in Chinese. Women wrote in Japanese.
• Why do you think there was this difference?
• Read *The Pillow Book* on p. 447.
• Discuss with your neighbor the Analysis Skill question.
Literature

- Both men and women wrote poetry, but women wrote more prose.
- Most poems were Wakas and following a specific structure.
- They were usually about love or nature.
- For example, here is a poem written by a famous Heian-period woman, Ono no Komachi:

The flowers withered, (5)
Their color faded away, (7)
While meaninglessly (5)
I spent my days in the world (7)
And the long rains were falling. (7)

Visual Art

- The most popular art forms of the period were...
  - Paintings
  - Calligraphy
  - Architecture
Japanese Art

- Read each of the following sections on p. 448 and 449 and create a tweet that summarizes each section. Be ready to share!
  - Visual Art
  - Architecture
  - Performing Arts