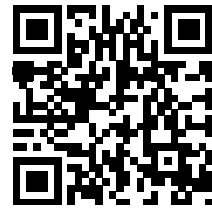


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Ancient Japanese Writings



In ancient times, the Japanese archipelago was inhabited by various _____, each with its own distinct culture and beliefs. Among these, the Yamato _____ emerged as the most powerful, laying the foundation for what would become the Japanese state. The _____ of Yamato were skilled in warfare and diplomacy, but their lasting legacy came through something else: _____.

Japanese literature began with oral traditions, stories passed down from generation to generation, often involving gods, _____, and the natural world. These tales were eventually compiled in written form, in works such as the "Kojiki" and the "Nihon Shoki". The _____, or "Record of Ancient Matters", is considered the oldest extant Japanese book. Written in 712, it _____ the creation of the world, the gods, and the origins of the Japanese _____.

Another cornerstone of Japanese literature is the "Nihon Shoki", completed in 720. Unlike the Kojiki, the Nihon Shoki was written in _____, the scholarly language of the time. It offers a more detailed historical account and is invaluable for understanding Japan's early _____.

Perhaps the most famous work of ancient Japanese literature is the "Man'yōshū", a collection of _____ dating back to the 8th century. This anthology includes more than 4,500 poems ranging from _____ poems to elegies, showcasing the emotional depth and literary talent of its contributors.

These _____ not only serve as historical records but also offer insight into the values, beliefs, and daily _____ of the Japanese people during ancient times. They highlight the importance of _____, the divine, and human emotions, themes that remain central to Japanese culture to this _____.

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