

Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Read the passage and answer the questions.

Write your answers on separate paper or on the back of this page.

Japan: A Different Country Since 1945

- 1 During World War II, Japan fought on the side of Germany and Italy. One reason Japan joined the war was because it wanted more land. It fought against the United States and its allies. By the end of the war in 1945, much of Japan had been destroyed. Japan surrendered and signed a treaty promising to fight no more.
- 2 In the next 40 years, Japan made great changes. It became one of the most powerful economic countries in the world. It also became a strong ally of the United States. How was Japan able to change so quickly?
- 3 Japan had a factory system that produced goods needed in the war effort. The agreement signed in 1945 prevented Japan from making weapons. So these factories changed over to making household goods and cars. People worked together to make the factories efficient. They developed many new products and sold them at a reasonable cost. Many were better and cheaper than those made in the United States.
- 4 Japan was also forced to change its form of government after the war. An emperor had ruled Japan for centuries. After the war, the government became democratic. People could choose their own leaders. More people were involved with decisions.
- 5 Today, Japan has the third largest economy in the world. It is also a strong force in world affairs.



Comprehension Questions

1. Circle the sentence in the first paragraph that shows a cause and effect structure.
2. Underline the sentence in paragraph 2 that shows the passage will use a cause and effect structure.
3. Give three reasons to explain why Japan became a strong country after 1945.