**Last Shogun**

Student Name: Class:

For each category write three reason why Japanese people would want the changes that come with industrialization and three reasons why they might be worried about the change. Give a specific example from the movie to support these contrasting worldviews.

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| Industrialization and Modernization |
| Desire for Change | Concerns about Change |
|  |  |

**Commodore Perry and the Opening of Japan**

1. Determine the most significant change regarding trade and relations that the United States President Fillmore asked Emperor Meiji of Japan to consider.

A. Read President Fillmore’s letter.

B. Highlight the key proposals made by President Fillmore.

C. Record the impact of these proposals based upon the Japanese perspective of the time as seen through the eyes of Emperor. Consider the following points:

* political well-being—adequate influence, self-determination, social order
* economic well-being—income from trade, importing of needed goods, good standard of living, job creation
* social well-being—cultural integrity: cultural connections, national identity, cultural expansion, satisfaction of basic needs.

D. Choose one as the most significant and state why you chose that one.

2. Write a likely response by Emperor Meiji officials to President Fillmore based upon the Japanese perspective of the time. Consider the following:

* historically accurate—includes documented facts and is plausible for the time
* specific details—contains clear and precise details
* portrays historical worldview—shows understanding of the mindset and attitudes during the time period.

**President Fillmore’s Letter**

*Letter of Millard Fillmore, President of the United States of America, to His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Japan, November 13, 1852*

GREAT and Good Friend: I send you this public letter by Commodore Matthew C. Perry, an officer of the highest rank in the navy of the United States, and commander of the squadron now visiting your imperial majesty's dominions.

I have directed Commodore Perry to assure your imperial majesty that I entertain the kindest feelings towards your majesty's person and government, and that I have no other object in sending him to Japan but to propose to your imperial majesty that the United States and Japan should live in friendship and have commercial intercourse with each other.

The Constitution and laws of the United States forbid all interference with the religious or political concerns of other nations. I have particularly charged Commodore Perry to abstain from every act which could possibly disturb the tranquility of your imperial majesty's dominions. The United States of America reaches from ocean to ocean, and our Territory of Oregon and State of California lie directly opposite to the dominions of your imperial majesty. Our steamships can go from California to Japan in eighteen days.

Our great State of California produces about sixty million dollars in gold every year, besides silver, quicksilver, precious stones, and many other valuable articles. Japan is also a rich and fertile country, and produces many very valuable articles. Your imperial majesty's subjects are skilled in many of the arts. I am desirous that our two countries should trade with each other, for the benefit both of Japan and the United States.

We know that the ancient laws of your imperial majesty's government do not allow of foreign trade, except with the Chinese and the Dutch; but as the state of the world changes and new governments are formed, it seems to be wise, from time to time, to make new laws. There was a time when the ancient laws of your imperial majesty's government were first made.

About the same time America, which is sometimes called the New World, was first discovered and settled by the Europeans. For a long time there were but a few people, and they were poor. They have now become quite numerous; their commerce is very extensive; and they think that if your imperial majesty were so far to change the ancient laws as to allow a free trade between the two countries it would be extremely beneficial to both.

**Ranking of Proposals and Indicate Likely Impact** (with 1 having the least impact on Japan):

**Most Significant Proposal and Why:**

**Write a Response from Meiji Officials (how do you think they would respond):**