Pre-Buddhist Japan and how Buddhism arrived

Early times
- Jomon & Yayoi period
- Animism
- Kofun period
- Shamanism represented by Himiko

Buddhism
- Born in Lumbini as a prince of the Sakya clan in approx. 563-483 BCE.
- Departure (the age of 29) and ascetic life
- Enlightenment (35)
  - Buddha: "the Awakened One" or "the Enlightened One"
- Formation of the Sangha
- Died at the age of 80
  - A stupa is a mound-like structure containing Buddhist relics, typically the remains of Buddha, used by Buddhists as a place of worship.

Teachings
- The Middle Way
- The Four Noble Truths
  - The Truth of Suffering
  - The Truth of the Accumulation of Suffering
  - The Truth of the Elimination of Suffering
  - The Truth of the Path that Leads Away from Suffering
- The Dependent Arising (Eng)
Main streams

- Theravada Buddhism
- Mahayana Buddhism
- since the 1st century BCE

Art of Gandhara (1-5 century)

Buddhism in Japan

The coming of Buddhism

- Buddhism arrived in Japan in 538 or 552
- Prince Shotoku, 573–621
  - He strove to consolidate Japan politically and spiritually with help of Buddhism.

Horyuji Temple

Nara Period (710–794)

- Buddhism as a national religion
- Six sects of Nara Buddhism
- The Great Buddha of the Todaiji temple was dedicated in 749.
Todaiji Temple

Popular Buddhism
- Combining Buddhism with native shamanism
- Healing the sick, consoling the afflicted, counseling the oppressed and building the bridges and irrigation system
- Gyogi (668-749)