PARK EAST HIGH SCHOOL
Purpose, Preparation, Pride

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

MINI-**CR**

How did *The Edict of 1635 Ordering the Closing of Japan* impact the Tokugawa Shogunate? What does this letter reveal about Japan's sentiments toward outsiders?

Objective: Describe Tokugawa responses to outsiders and the impacts of those decisions.

An Introduction to *The Edict of 1635 Ordering the Closing of Japan* Addressed to the Joint Bugyō of Nagasaki

A 1634 Japanese Red seal ship.

RedSealShip.JPG created by Per Honor et Gloria , courtesy of wikimedia commons

What was the relationship between Japan and other nations before *The Edict of 1635 Ordering the Closing of Japan*?

The beginning of the Tokugawa period (1603-1867) coincides with the last decades of the Nanban trade period, during which interaction with European powers took place. At the beginning of the Edo period, Japan built its first ocean-going Western-style warships, such as the Japanese warship *San Juan Bautist.* Also during that period, the government commissioned around 350 red seal ships, three-masted, armed trade ships for intra-Asian commerce. Japanese adventurers, such as Yamada Nagamasa, used those ships to travel throughout Asia.

Ieyasu Tokugawa won the title of shogun in 1603 after defeating his rivals by using guns brought into Japan by the Europeans. Japanese interest in European culture brought trade of various goods such as eyeglasses, clocks, firearms, and artillery to Japan. His successors, however, began to question the impacts of trade with Europeans. This Edict of 1635 was the third of a series of edicts issued by the Shogun of Japan from 1623 to 1651. The Edict of 1635 was written by Tokugawa Iemitsu to the two commissioners of Nagasaki, a port city located in southwestern Japan.

Source: Adapted from http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Edo_period
http://wps.pearsoncustom.com/wps/media/objects/2426/2484749/chap_assets/documents/doc17_2.html

What is an edict? An edict is an official order given by a person with power or by a government.

1a. Pre-Reading Questions: Contextualization

Who wrote *The Edict of 1635 Ordering the Closing of Japan*?	
When was *The Edict of 1635 Ordering the Closing of Japan* written?	
Where was *The Edict of 1635 Ordering the Closing of Japan* written?	
What type (primary source of secondary source) of document is *The Edict of 1635 Ordering the Closing of Japan*?	
What genre (letter, memoir, journal, edict, etc.) of document is *The Edict of 1635 Ordering the Closing of Japan*? What does this reveal about the intended impact of this document?	
Who was the audience for *The Edict of 1635 Ordering the Closing of Japan* ?	
What was the (point-of-view) **perspective** of the author? (Hint: What is the main interest or goal of the author?)	

1b. Why was *The Edict of 1635 Ordering the Closing of Japan* written?

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1c. Why might the *The Edict of 1635 Ordering the Closing of Japan* be an important historical document? (How might this document help historians better understand this time period?)

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Vocabulary	
Southern Barbarians: Westerners	**propagate:** to increase

1. Japanese ships are strictly forbidden to leave for foreign countries.

2. No Japanese is permitted to go abroad. If there is anyone who attempts to do so secretly, he must be executed. The ship so involved must be impounded and its owner arrested, and the matter must be reported to the higher authority.

5. Any informer revealing the whereabouts of the followers of the priests must be rewarded accordingly. If anyone reveals the whereabouts of a high ranking priest, he must be given one hundred pieces of-silver. For those of lower ranks, depending on the deed, the reward must be set accordingly.

7. If there are any **Southern Barbarians** who **propagate** the teachings of the priests, or otherwise commit crimes, they may be incarcerated in the prison. . . .

8. All incoming ships must be carefully searched for the followers of the priests.

You are hereby required to act in accordance with the Provisions set above. It is so ordered.

Source: http://users.wfu.edu/watts/w03_Japancl.html

Close Reading Questions

Directions: Using the excerpt of *The Edict of 1635 Ordering the Closing of Japan*, respond to the questions below.

1a. According to line 3-5, what is the consequence for a Japanese person going abroad? 1b. Why would the shogun select this type of consequence?
2a. According to line 7-9, what specific group of Europeans was the Shogunate most concerned about? 2b. Why would the shogun be most concerned about this group?
3a. In lines 11-12, who are the “Southern Barbarians”? Why would the Japanese refer to these people as “Southern Barbarians”? 3b. What does this naming reveal about Japanese attitudes toward outsiders?
4. Explain how this edict would have impacted cultural life in Japan.
5. Explain how this edict would have impacted economic life in Japan.