

## Japanese Textbook (Document A)

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*The following is an excerpt from the Japanese New History Textbook. This textbook was created by the Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform and was first published in 2005. The book was supposed to be the new standard textbook for all high school students in Japan.*

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“In August 1937, two Japanese soldiers were shot to death in Shanghai (*the largest city in China*). After this incident, the hostilities between Japan and China escalated (*became more intense*). Japanese military officials thought Chiang Kai-shek (*the Chinese leader*) would surrender if they captured Nanking, the nation’s capital. Japanese forces took over that city in December. But Chiang Kai-shek had moved his capital to the remote city of Chongqing. The conflict continued.

Note: At this time, many Chinese soldiers and civilians were killed or wounded by Japanese troops. This is known as the Nanking Incident. However, historical evidence has raised doubts about the actual number of victims killed or injured during the incident. No clear evidence has been found showing Japanese military or police officials took Chinese women by force (*rape*).”

*Source: The New History Textbook, translated by the Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform, published in 2005*



## Chinese Textbook (Document B)

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*The following is an excerpt from Chinese History—Textbook for High School, the State-sponsored textbook for high schools in modern day China.*

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*“The Nanjing Massacre: In December 1937, the Japanese military captured Nanjing. The Japanese military committed bloody atrocities against the residents of Nanjing and prisoners of war, killing them in extremely cruel methods including mass execution, burning, burying alive, beheading, and biting by dogs. The Nanjing Massacre was the most horrible event in world history. According to statistics, the estimate of the deaths caused by Japanese atrocities against unarmed Nanjing residents amounted to more than 300,000 just during the six weeks of the occupation by the Japanese military. Between 20,000 and 80,000 Chinese women were raped--and many soldiers did things worse than rape. They disemboweled (remove someone’s guts) women and nailed them alive to walls. The Nanjing Massacre is one of the greatest acts of violence perpetrated by the Japanese aggressors on the Chinese people. The Japanese were so brutal in Nanjing that even their Nazi allies in the city were shocked.”*

*Source: Chinese History—Textbook for High School, published 1998.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Guiding Questions

### Chinese Textbook (Document B)

1. Source: What type of document is this? What country is it from? Do you trust this document? Why or why not?
2. Summarize: What does this document say happened during the Japanese invasion of Nanking?
3. Corroborate: Look back at Document A (Japanese Textbook). What are the similarities in the two accounts of the invasion of Nanking? What are the differences in the two accounts? Why do you think the two accounts differ?
4. Interpret: After reading the above document, what do you think happened during the invasion of Nanking? Are you confident that that you know what happened? Why or why not?
5. Critical Corroboration: What other sources might you want to look at to better understand what happened during the invasion of Nanking?

## Chinese Survivor Account (Document C)

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*The following is the survivor account of Xia Shu-qin, a Chinese resident of Nanking that was 7 years old at the time of the Japanese invasion in 1937. Xia Shu-qin told this story to a Chinese interviewer in June 2005.*

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“It was about ten in the morning when a dozen Japanese soldiers with rifles and fixed bayonets (*knives at the end of their guns*) rushed into the house. They shot my father and grabbed my baby sister, who was being breast-fed by my mother...the Japanese killed my grandparents and dragged two of my sisters out of our house and raped them. Then they stabbed me and my 3-year old sister with bayonets. I saw both of my older sisters lying in pools of blood, dead.”

*Source: Xia Shu-qin, “Survivor tells of Nanking Massacre horrors.” Published in China Daily, a popular Chinese newspaper, on June 7, 2005.*

## Guiding Questions

### Chinese Survivor Account (Document C)

1. Source: What type of document is this? What perspective does it provide? Do you trust this document? Why or why not?
2. Summarize: What does this document say happened during the Japanese invasion of Nanking?
3. Corroborate: Look back at Document A (Japanese Textbook) and Document B (Chinese Textbook). How is this document similar and different to the previous two? Does this document support one more than the other?
4. Interpret: How has this document added to your understanding about what happened during the invasion of Nanking? Do you feel confident you know what happened? Why or why not?
5. Critical Corroboration: What other source might you want to look at to better understand what happened during the invasion of Nanking?

## Japanese Soldier Account (Document D)

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*The following is the account of Shiro Azuma, a Japanese soldier that participated in the Nanking Massacre in 1937. This is an excerpt from his diary that he wrote during his time as a soldier in China. The diary was published in 1987.*

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“We had fun killing Chinese. When we caught some Chinese civilians, we either buried them alive, or pushed them into a fire, or beat them to death with clubs. When they were half dead we pushed them into ditches and burned them, torturing them to death. Everyone gets his entertainment this way. It’s like killing dogs and cats.

We sent out trucks into the city to seize women. We did not spare old women or young girls of this treatment.

We did everything for the sake of the Emperor, the raping, the killing, everything.”

*Source: Shiro Azuma, The Diary of Shiro Azuma, published in 1987.*

## Guiding Questions

### Japanese Soldier Account (Document D)

1. Source: What type of document is this? What perspective does it provide? Do you trust this document? Why or why not?
2. Summarize: What does this document say happened during the Japanese invasion of Nanking?
3. Corroborate: Look back at Document A (Japanese Textbook), Document B (Chinese Textbook), and Document C (Chinese Survivor). How is this document similar and different to the previous three?
4. Interpret: After looking at these documents, what do you think happened during the invasion of Nanking? Do you feel confident you know what happened during the Japanese invasion of Nanking? Why or why not?
5. Critical Corroboration: Is there any other source you still might want to look at to better understand what happened during the invasion of Nanking?



## **Textbook (Document E)**

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*The following is an excerpt from a textbook explaining the Japanese attack on Nanking.*

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“In 1936, a border incident touched off a full-scale war between Japan and China. Japanese forces swept into northern China. Despite having a million soldiers, Japan’s army led by Jiang Jieshi was no match for the better equipped and trained Japanese.

Beijing and other northern cities as well as the capital, Nanjing, fell to the Japanese in 1937. Japanese troops killed tens of thousands of captured soldiers and civilians in Nanjing. Forced to retreat westward, Jiang Jieshi set up a new capital at Chongqing. At the same time, Chinese guerillas led by China’s Communist leader, Mao Zedong, continued to fight the Japanese in the conquered area.

*Source: McDougal Littel, Modern World History: Patterns of Interaction. Published 2006.*

## Guiding Questions

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Your Textbook (Document E)

- 1.) Source: What country is this textbook from? How do you expect it to compare to the other two textbooks you have looked at?
  
- 2.) Summarize: What does this document say happened during the Japanese invasion of Nanking? Is this account more similar to the Japanese or Chinese textbook? Explain.
  
- 3.) Interpret: On a scale of 1-10 (10 being best), how would you rate your textbook's account of the Japanese attack on Nanking? Explain.