Name _____

Navigating Japan's Government - A Journey into Democracy

Short Answer Key

1. The role of the Emperor in Japan's government is primarily symbolic and ceremonial. The Emperor has no political power and is a unifying figure for the nation. The limitations on their political power are established by the Constitution of Japan, which assigns all political authority to elected officials.
2. The Prime Minister of Japan is the head of the Executive Branch and serves as the leader of the majority party in the Japanese Diet (parliament). Their responsibilities include appointing Cabinet members, overseeing the administration of government affairs, representing Japan in international matters, and working with the legislative branch to pass laws and policies.
3. The bicameral nature of Japan's National Diet involves two houses: the House of Representatives (Lower House) and the House of Councillors (Upper House). Members of the House of Representatives are elected by the public, while members of the House of Councillors are elected by the people every six years. This system ensures checks and balances, with both houses participating in the legislative process.
4. The Japanese judicial system ensures the rule of law by interpreting and upholding the laws of the country. It includes various levels of courts, with the Supreme Court serving as the highest judicial authority. The independence of the judiciary is a fundamental aspect of Japan's legal system, ensuring impartiality and fairness.
5. Local government in Japan plays a crucial role in administering affairs at the community level. It includes prefectures, cities, towns, and villages, each with its own elected officials and government structures. Local governments provide services and make decisions that directly affect their communities, promoting decentralization and community engagement.

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