

Shogun

Who's Who



The Shogun's Family & Their Retainers

Toyotomi Murasaki

Murasaki is the loyal wife of the Shogun. Intelligent and wise in the ways of the Imperial Court, and always happy to talk to anyone, but beware her anger and cross her at your peril. She is known as a patron of the arts.

Toyotomi Hirohito

Hirohito is the Shogun's son and heir. He is not yet come of age and is a spoilt and petulant young samurai, who usually gets his own way because people are afraid to say 'no' to him.

Sakamoto Jin

Jin is a former peasant who rose to become the head of the Shogun's Bodyguard. Once deadly and fearsome, he has become old and should surely have retired to a monastery to make way for someone younger.

Fujiwara Mariko

Mariko is the Imperial Astrologer and Matchmaker and favourite of the Shogun's wife, Toyotomi Murasaki. She is married to Fujiwara Yoshi, the Imperial Physician, and the mother of Fujiwara Mai, the Keeper of the Imperial Archives.

Fujiwara Yoshi

Yoshi is the Imperial Physician. A learned scholar of medicine who has attended the Shogun for many years after successfully overseeing the birth of his son. He is married to Fujiwara Mariko, the Imperial Astrologer, and is the father of Fujiwara Mai, the Keeper of the Imperial Archives.

The Bakufu

Oda Asahiko

Asahiko is the Imperial Chancellor, an officious and overbearing but capable administrator who oversees the running of the government with an iron hand. Getting on in age, it is rumoured he is looking for a worthy successor to replace him - if anyone can live up to his high standards.

Miramoto Mori

Mori is the Minister of the Centre, responsible for the Imperial Treasury. He works very hard but also can be seen enjoying life on his days off. He is the eldest son of Miramoto Akira and the heir to the Miramoto clan. He is reputedly highly superstitious.

Tokugawa Yasuo

Yasuo is the Minister of the Left, responsible for overseeing the administration of all Foreign Affairs. He works diligently in his role and is both diplomatic and intelligent. He is a true follower of the way of the samurai.

Takagi Motoko

Motoko is the Minister of the Right, responsible for overseeing the enforcement of law and order. She earned her post through hard work and is a clever administrator. She is also a fierce warrior and strict observer of the code of Bushido. She is the niece of Takagi Haruna, the Daimyo of the Takagi Clan.

Fujiwara Mai

Mai is the Keeper of the Imperial Archives. This intelligent and charming woman is always ready to talk about books, history or anything. She is a conscientious worker, and often stays in the Archives late into the night in order to fulfil her imperial duties.

Sano Ichiro

Ichiro is the Imperial Magistrate. Formerly a mere temple servant, he was raised to this honourable post after saving the life of the Shogun's wife from death at the hands of one of the Ninja. He is both diligent and fair in carrying out his duties and has a reputation for being scrupulously honest.

Oda Koto

Koto is the Prefect of Edo City Gaol, after the previous holder of the post committed seppuku when the Great Fire of Edo broke out in the prison. Koto used to be the personal physician of the Shogun but was demoted some years ago for unknown reasons.

Ishida 'Iron Fist' Kisaku

'Iron Fist' Kisaku is the Prefect of the Imperial Police and a tough and mean policeman who has maintained stability and reduced crime in difficult times. He is the brother of Ishida Matsunari, the Daimyo of the Ishida Clan, and the father of Ishida Kiri but his other daughter drowned at sea in a storm on the ship of Akeda Katagiri.

Katsuya

Katsuya is an Inspector in the Imperial Police, Katsuya is a hard-boiled street cop who has seen many years on the street. A ronin, she was formerly a member of the Akeda Clan, before it was disbanded by the Shogun. Many of her police partners have met an untimely end, though she always seems to survive somehow.

Takagi Morio

Morio is a member of the lower classes recently adopted into the Takagi Clan and appointed to the rank of Inspector in the Imperial Police. Morio is fresh-faced but very eager and has already made a number of arrests. He is extremely dutiful.

Ishida Kurosawa

Kurosawa is the Fire Warden of Edo and works all hours to protect the city from calamity. Renowned for his honesty and integrity, he seeks to expunge the shame of his father, who committed seppuku after being convicted of embezzlement of public funds.

Tokiko

Tokiko is the Head of the Imperial Revenue Service. A ronin, she was formerly a member of the Akeda clan before it was disbanded by the Shogun. Since taking up her position, she has raised large sums in taxes for the government. She is also the foremost practitioner in Japan of Shodo, the Way of Writing, the Japanese art of calligraphy.

The Daimyo & Their Vassals

Ishida Matsunari

Matsunari is the Daimyo of the Ishida clan. He is a great military leader and a wily fox who has survived the years going from strength to strength. He is set on making the Ishida the top clan in Japan, preferably at the expense of his Clan's traditional enemies, the Miramoto clan.

Ishida Kiri

Kiri is the daughter of Ishida Kisaku and niece of Ishida Matsunari. She is a respected samurai warrior and a true student of Bushido. Her sister drowned in scurrilous circumstances when the Akeda Clan junk sank in a storm.

Tokugawa Ieyasu

Ieyasu is the Daimyo of the Tokugawa clan but reputedly ambitious for more. The Tokugawa clan has grown strong, despite the opposition of the Takagi Clan, their traditional enemies, due to his ability to strike a series of powerful marriage alliances.

Tokugawa Omi

Omi is the second wife of Ieyasu and mother of Buntaro and stepmother to Yasuo. A wise and courtly samurai, she is known to have a fiery temper, but is also a talented poet and member of the Society of the New Moon.

Tokugawa Buntaro

Buntaro is the second son of Tokugawa Ieyasu. He is a skilled swordsman and soldier. Still unmarried, he is often seen as aloof and focused on the furtherment of the Tokugawa and of Japan.

Miramoto Akira

Akira is the head of the Miramoto clan and the greatest sea captain that Japan has produced in modern times. Proud, clever and resourceful, his family may one day become the most powerful in Japan unless their traditional enemies, the Ishida Clan, manage to stop them.

Miramoto Fujiko

Fujiko is the loving wife of Miramoto Akira and has borne him three children. Shockingly, she has converted to the Gaijin religion, which (according to rumour) has caused a rift between her and her husband. She is the leading exponent of the 'Rikka' (formal) style of Kado, the Japanese art of flower arranging.

Miramoto Yuki

Yuki married into the Azai Clan but her husband was executed for drawing his sword in the Imperial Palace and the Azai Clan was dissolved so she returned to the Miramoto Clan. She is a steadfast believer in and adherent to the code of Bushido and acts honourably in all things.

Takagi Haruna

Haruna became the Daimyo of the Takagi clan after the sudden death of her husband. She aims to thwart her Clan's traditional enemies, the Tokugawa clan, and fulfil her desire for the Takagi to become the pre-eminent clan in Japan.

Takagi Mizue

Mizue is the heir to the Takagi clan. She is a naive and trusting young girl who loves the theatre and poetry. She was recently captured by the notorious bandit, the White Crane, but miraculously escaped with her honour apparently intact.

Takagi Waka

Waka is a famous poet and writer. She is the head of the Society of the New Moon and believes women should be allowed to perform on stage. She is a devoted follower of the way of the Samurai.

Akeda Katagiri

Akeda was thought dead for some time but has recently returned to Edo and seeks the return of his ancestral clan lands, lost when he and his father (and the daughter of Ishida Kisaku) were reported drowned when their ship sank. There are those who claim him to be an imposter, but he certainly appears like the rake and wastrel he used to be.

The Ambassadors

The Honourable
Niohe Hitara

Niohe Hitara is the ambassador to Japan from Manchuria. Some say she was born under an auspicious sign and is destined for greatness, but it is unclear exactly what the future holds. She is a strong and independent woman with a wily streak - as befits an ambassador.

Prince Zang Juzheng

Prince Zang is the ambassador to Japan from the mighty Imperial China. This royal diplomat is very polite and highly inscrutable yet commands the largest army in the world.

Their Excellency
Hyung-ju Gwan

Hwang is the ambassador to Japan from Korea and was a resident of Japan for many years. They are highly intelligent and learned, able to speak with great knowledge on many subjects.

Matriarch Umitu Bai

Umitu Bai is the ambassador to Japan from the Kingdom of the Ryukyu Isles and reputedly trained as a priestess. Little is known about the islanders other than their religious leaders are said to possess an inner sight and can see things beyond the understanding of others.

Admiral Zheng Zhilong

Admiral Zheng is the ambassador to Japan from the Kingdom of Dadu. Although Dadu is a small nation, he controls a vast fleet of vessels, which ply the high seas where they will. Although a high-ranking personage in his own country, he is often seen carousing in the inns of Edo.

The Ronin

Musashi

Musashi is a Ronin and the leader of the 47 Ronin who tried but failed to avenge the death of their leader by killing the Imperial Chancellor, Oda Asahiko. He is a man of great honour in the eyes of some and a disgrace to others. He awaits trial for his crimes.

The Monks

Tripitaka

Tripitaka is the Acting Abbot of the monks of the Mount Hiei temple. He has travelled extensively, going to India and back. He is usually accompanied by his monks, but he is well able to defend himself and teaches the art of defence to those who show respect to the Shaolin teachings.

Koji

Koji is the Keeper of Relics at the Mount Hiei Temple. Despite the exterior of a peaceful monk, famed for his skill in the execution of the tea ceremony, this former samurai is hot-headed and prone to outbursts if he or his temple are insulted. People laugh when he says he is a ghost hunter - but if they laugh too long they tend to regret it!

Teiji

Teiji is the Steward and Almoner of the Mount Hiei Temple. He is responsible for the collection and distribution of alms for the poor. He has recently returned from a tour of the many temples and shrines in the countryside which are affiliated with the Mount Hiei Temple.

Sanshiro

Sanshiro is the Treasurer of the Mount Hiei Temple. He also teaches the martial ways of Shaolin to those who are in need of training in defence. He is often seen about Edo's less disreputable areas, preaching the Shaolin way to enlightenment and harmony.

Yagami Miya

Yagami Miya is the Shrine Maiden of the Mount Hiei temple. She comes from the Ryukyu Isles and is reputedly able to divine the future by talking to the dead. Many come to her for guidance because of her visions and because she charges very little, with all fees going to the temple coffers.

The Geisha

Kiki

Kiki is the elderly proprietor of the House of Cherry Blossom and the Madam of the Geisha who work there. She is well respected and admired and keeps an orderly house, although there was, apparently, an unfortunate incident there recently.

Chiya

Chiya is a geisha of the first rank. Her attention is therefore sought by many of those with power and influence, since she is superior to the other two geisha in training and experience. She is very private and rarely seen outside the Geisha house.

Fumi

Fumi is a young geisha of the second rank. She is in demand by many clients and can be seen about Edo visiting them at all hours. She receives many gifts from admirers, but is still learning how to be a geisha of the highest rank and ability.

Ayami

Ayami is a young geisha of the second rank. She is in demand by many clients and can be seen about Edo visiting them at all hours.

The Sumo Wrestlers

Kenki

Kenki is a Sumo Wrestler vying to win the Basho at the Cherry Blossom Festival. He is often seen hanging around the "Drunken Monkey" School of Martial Arts which is currently led by Shimako. He is a practitioner of the Christian religion.

Teoshi

Teoshi is a Sumo Wrestler vying to win the Basho at the Cherry Blossom Festival. He is often seen at Toda's sake house, where he acts as protection against drunken revellers and other such groups. There is some debate about his origins and if he is peasant or samurai - only Teoshi knows.

Wakanami

Wakanami is a Sumo Wrestler vying to win the Basho at the Cherry Blossom Festival. He is often seen at Kiki's Geisha house, where he ensures the safety of the geisha. He and Kenki are known to be friends, but are rivals when it comes to sumo wrestling.

Daishi

Daishi is a Sumo Wrestler vying to win the Basho at the Cherry Blossom Festival. He also works as a bodyguard for Kinji, the Moneylender and has been married to Satoru, the Pawnbroker for many years. He is also the leading expert in the 'Nageirebana' (natural) style of Kado, the Japanese art of flower arranging.

The Company of the Rising Sun

Choji

Choji is the leading actor in the travelling troupe of actors called the Company of the Rising Sun. He is married to Naru and has a daughter Mimori, both members of the troupe. Sadly, his son recently died in a tragic accident on stage.

Naru

Naru supports the Company of the Rising Sun troupe of actors. She writes the plays, manages the costumes and make-up and also plays the flute. She is married to Choji, the leading actor in the troupe, and is the mother of Mimori.

Mimori

Mimori is the daughter of Choji and Naru and a member of the theatrical troupe, the Company of the Rising Sun. She is a competent musician and is often seen in inns playing on the shamisen, although of late her tunes are sad, due to the death of her brother on stage in a tragic accident.

Osamu

Osamu is an experienced but undistinguished actor and musician in the Company of the Rising Sun troupe. Osamu is well known for his ability to recollect the texts of hundreds of different plays. He likes to keep himself to himself when not on stage.

Shoji

Shoji is an actor in the Company of the Rising Sun troupe. Shoji is famous for his ability to play the female roles on stage. Off stage, Shoji loves to meet his adoring audience and has fans in both the Imperial Court as well as in the rougher parts of town.

The Merchants

Yoritomo

Yoritomo is a young unmarried merchant whose financial genius and eye for identifying advantageous opportunities for investment and overseas trade has already made fortunes for many of the noble samurai families of Japan. He is engaged and shortly to be married to Naruko, the Incense Merchant.

Kinji

Kinji, the Moneylender is the merchant who bankrolls many of the noble samurai families of Japan. The former business partner of Satoru, he is now known for his lack of mercy and compassion, both in matters of business and matters of the heart.

Satoru

Satoru is a pawnbroker. She is married to Daishi, the sumo wrestler. She is renowned for her keen business sense and desire to drive a hard bargain. She is very superstitious and consults an astrologer before taking any decisions of consequence.

Toda

Toda runs the sake house, under the direction of her father, in which the new gaijin are required to stay whilst in Edo. She employs Shinjo to act as the bartender and Teoshi, the sumo wrestler, to keep order. She is also known to be a member of the 'Drunken Monkey' School of martial arts.

Shinjo

Shinjo is the bartender at Toda's Sake house. He is a friendly and polite bartender who is always happy to listen to other people's stories. Where he comes from and what he was before he was a bartender is unknown, but his eyes suggest a chequered past.

Naruko

Naruko is a merchant who sells the finest supplies of incense to the samurai and monks of Edo who practice Kodo, the Way of Fragrance (incense appreciation). She is engaged to be married to Yoritomo, the Administrator of the Imperial Kou. She is known to be intensely possessive of him and can become very jealous.

Hikari

Hikari is a young unmarried merchant who offers for sale to the samurai the finest supplies of tea. She is very polite and humble and always eager to share a cup of tea with friends and strangers alike and share the news of the day. She is one of the best friends of Naruko.

Ayako

Ayako is a middle-aged paper merchant who makes and offers the finest writing supplies for sale to the samurai and the temples. She was married to Musashi, the leader of the 47 Ronin, before he divorced her.

Shimako

Shimako is the elderly unmarried head of the 'Drunken Monkey' School of Kung-Fu, which she inherited from Master Yugi, when he was killed in a martial arts duel against the master of a rival school. She is known to have converted to Christianity.

Ransuke

Ransuke arrived in Edo from China only a short while ago and is still a bit of a mystery. She can regularly be seen about the rougher parts of Edo but she is supremely skilled in the martial arts, as those who think otherwise find out to their cost.

The Gaijin

Father-Superior
Jose Da Cunha

Da Cunha is one of the Gaijin. He is the supreme head of the Christian Church in Japan. Born in Italy, one of the Gaijin countries, he was initially appointed to spread the word about the Christian God in Imperial China, before being promoted to lead the Christian church in Japan.

Father Martin Alvito

Father Martin is one of the Gaijin. He is the officiating priest in the first Christian church in Japan. Born in Portugal, one of the Gaijin countries, his first posting was to the Spanish colonies in South America. He is quiet and introspective, given to contemplation of life's challenges and the Word of God.

Father Rodrigo Mendoza

Father Rodrigo is one of the Gaijin. He is a former acolyte of Father Martin and now a priest of the Christian Church in Japan in his own right. He runs the Christian Mission, which ministers to the poor and downtrodden. He is a tolerant and peaceful soul but the hard look in his eyes suggests that this was not always so.

Brother Diego

Brother Diego is a Japanese convert to Christianity. He went on a pilgrimage to Rome a few years ago and has only just returned, full of the holy spirit. He can be heard preaching regularly across Edo, condemning evil souls to damnation but eager to convert as many of the Japanese to Christianity as he can.

Don Juan De Ferreira

Don Juan is one of the Gaijin. Born in Spain (one of the Gaijin countries), he is an experienced military man and the captain, this year, of the *Black Ship* that has brought the Gaijin trade goods to Japan. He is a loud and arrogant man who looks down on those less physically able and less important than him.

Vasco Rodriguez

Vasco is one of the Gaijin. Born in Portugal, one of the Gaijin countries, he is the pilot of the *Black Ship*. Unlike some of the other Western Christians, he is happy to mix with the Japanese. He likes sake and can often be seen carousing the inns with his friends and learning about their culture.

Dorotéia Santos

Dorotéia is one of the Gaijin. She is the widow of the Trade Factor to Japan appointed by the King of Portugal. Her husband died from an illness soon after they arrived in Japan, and she has assumed responsibility for her husband's affairs. A strong and independent woman, she is happy to trade with the Japanese.

John Blackthorne

John Blackthorne is one of the new Gaijin. He is a sailor from the distant land of England. His knowledge of the Japanese language and culture is limited. On arriving in Japan, his ship, the *Erasmus*, was impounded, his crew imprisoned, and he has been virtually a prisoner ever since setting foot on shore.

The Reverend
Pieter Van Nekk

Pieter Van Nekk is one of the new Gaijin. He is a Dutch sailor, and arrived on the *Erasmus* with John Blackthorne and is likewise a 'guest' of the Miramoto clan. His knowledge of the Japanese language and culture is limited. A strong believer in the Gaijin Christian God, there is nonetheless a strange antipathy between him and the Gaijin priests.