What was life like for aristocrats during the Heian period?

Examine the image your teacher is projecting. Suppose that you are one of the people in this image. You are being shown into this house for the first time.

1. What are some things you might expect to see?

2. Notice the man standing in the middle of the small group in the lower right-hand corner of the painting. He seems to be pointing at the home. What do you imagine he is saying to the group of men?
Heian period courtier
golden age Tale of Genji

Section 2

1. Why did the emperor move the Japanese capital from Nara to Heian-kyo?

2. Complete the statement being made by the Heian lady below using the following words: gardens, stone wall, screens.

   My life in Heian-kyo is filled with beauty and elegance. For instance, the mansion I live in has . . .
If you are doing the activity, complete all questions in the following sections of the Reading Notes. (Note: If you are not doing the activity, skip Question 1 in each section.)

**Section 3**

1. Station A: How did you behave toward Fujiwara Michinaga? Why?

2. List two ways the Fujiwara family was able to exercise power despite their not being the formal rulers of Japan.

3. Sketch and label a drawing to illustrate an important idea about the Fujiwara family.

**Section 4**

1. Station B: What did you do with the fan? Why?

2. What determined the rank a person held during the Heian period?

3. Quickly sketch and label a diagram to illustrate the different ranks in the Heian court hierarchy. For example, you might draw a ladder with nine rungs, each representing one rank.
Section 5
1. Station C: What tips did you give a Heian woman about how to apply cosmetics?

2. How was a person judged during the Heian period?

3. Quickly sketch and label a drawing to illustrate an important idea about Heian beauty, fashion, and manners. For example, you might draw and color the face of a woman who would have been considered beautiful.

Section 6
1. Station G: Write the number of times you were able to kick the ball to each other without it touching the ground and the number of stones you were able to balance on your finger.

   Ball _____               Stones _____

2. Match each of the following forms of Japanese recreation or entertainment with the correct description.

   _____ Festival of the Snake a. large men try to throw each other out of a ring
   _____ bugaku             b. young women try balance stones on one finger
   _____ sumo wrestling     c. cups are floated in a stream
   _____ rango              d. courtiers kick a leather ball back and forth
   _____ kemari             e. dancers wear masks and act out simple stories

3. Quickly sketch and label a drawing to illustrate an important idea about entertainment or recreation during the Heian period.
Section 7
1. Station D: Which work of art did you praise, Painting 1 or Painting 2? Why?

2. How did the process of carving statues change during this period?

3. How did painting change during this period?

Section 8
1. Station E: Which book did you borrow from the nobleman? Why?

2. Explain how poetry was part of daily life in Heian-kyo.

3. Identify three reasons why the Tale of Genji is significant even today.

Section 9
1. Station F: What should be your attitude toward the poor if you want the aristocrats to accept you?

2. List three reasons why the Heian period came to an end.

3. Quickly sketch and label a drawing to illustrate an important idea about the end of the Heian period.
Section 10
Complete the spoke diagram by describing ways in which the Heian period influences present-day Japan for each of the three categories.

Influences of the Heian Period on Modern Japan

- Literature
- Poetry
- Music

**PROCESSING**

*On a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph answering the Essential Question:*

What was life like for aristocrats during the Heian period?