



Japanese Cinema: Silent and Sound

1. How does the Great Kanto Earthquake affect Japanese cinema?
2. Define *jidaigeki* and *gendaigeki*. Which directors and studios were associated with each?
3. How long does Japan create silent films? Why?

4. What is a *benshi*?

5. How does WWII affect Japanese cinema? And immediately after the War?

6. Why is Akira Kurosawa important to Japanese cinema? What types of films does he create?



Rashomon

7. How was the Western world first introduced to Kurosawa and Japanese cinema?

8. What/Who are Kurosawa's influences?

Bonus: What famous American film is adapted from Kurosawa's *A Hidden Fortress* (1958)?