

CHAPTER 8 | LESSON 2 Growth of Japanese Culture

Primary Source**Wisdom King Fudo (Fudo Myo-o)**

—from the Heian period (794–1185)
Woodcarving—Japan

Description: The god Fudo Myo-o is filled with anger against evil. He will protect all believers of Buddhism and lead them to better understanding of Buddha’s teachings. His name means “one who will not be moved”. His arms and legs are very long, and his shoulders and back rest on stiffened legs.

His lasso is a symbol of protection. He can tie up evil creatures and lead believers toward the truth. His sword is a symbol of wisdom because it can cut through ignorance and destroy evil. He stands on rocks, hard and unmoving objects that symbolize Fudo’s determination to guard the Buddhist religion.

**DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTIONS**

1. When was this object created? In what region of the world was it created?

2. Who is depicted in this object? Why is he important?

3. **Making Inferences** Who might have used this object and for what purpose?

4. **Making Generalizations** What does this object tell us about the use of symbolism in religious art?
