

名称	名称ふりがな	解説
<b>I Literature in Jodai (Ancient Times)</b>	じょうだいのぶんがく	
		While Japanese history often uses the term "kodai" to mean ancient times, the history of literature generally calls the times before the Heian period "jodai." Its beginning is uncertain, but its end is defined as the end of the 8th century. Politically, the state had progressed to unity and completion of its regime during this period. From the perspective of literature, this period was the time when Japanese people—who had not had characters for writing—first met kanji or Chinese characters and attempted various ways to express themselves using kanji.
<b>Literature in Jodai</b>	じょうだいのぶんがく	Literature in the period primarily when the capital was at Yamato before it was transferred to Heian-kyo in 794. While the categories range from myths to legends, songs, waka or Japanese poetry, Chinese poetry, biographies, histories and topographies, there were not so many works as a whole. Every extant work containing ancient contents was actually compiled into a book in the Nara period (710–794). Some of those books were established against the background of the regime establishment of the state.
<b>Myths and History</b>	しんわ・れきし	<i>Kojiki</i> was established in 712. O no Yasumaro composed this book by writing down the ancient history inherited by Hieda no Are. <i>Kojiki</i> contains the history from the age of the gods to the reign of Empress Suiko (reign: 593–629). <i>Nihon Shoki</i> was established in 720 through a compilation carried out by Prince Toneri. This is the oldest government-compiled history book in Japan, containing history from the age of the gods to the reign of Empress Jito (reign: 687–697). Both books contain many myths, traditions, songs and waka poems, so they are very important works for studying the sensibility and thoughts of ancient Japanese
<b>Topographies and Traditions</b>	ちし・でんしょう	<i>Fudoki</i> is a topography that Empress Genmei ordered the provinces to compile and submit in 713. Today, <i>Fudoki</i> 's of five provinces exist: Hitachi, Harima, Izumo, Bungo and Hizen. <i>Fudoki</i> records traditions regarding place names, as well as geography and products in each province. <i>Kogo Shui</i> was compiled and submitted by Inbe no Hironari in 807, and deserves attention as a record of ancient traditions complementing <i>Kojiki</i> and <i>Nihon Shoki</i> (this book was established at the beginning of the Heian period, but
<b>Chinese Poetry and Biographies</b>	かんしぶん・でんき	<i>Kaifuso</i> , established in 751, is the oldest extant anthology of Chinese poetry, created under the influence of Chinese literature. This book contains about 120 poems made between the time of the Oumi Dynasty (667-672) and the mid-Nara period. Its compiler is unknown, and some assume Oumi no Mifune, Fujii no Hironari, Isonokami no Yakatsugu, or others as the compiler. Extant biographies written in classic Chinese include <i>Kaden</i> , a history of Fujiwara no Kamatari and his sons compiled by Emi no Oshikatsu and Enkei, and <i>Tou Daiwajo Tousei Den</i> , a biography of Ganjin compiled by Oumi no Mifune.
<b>Waka</b>	わか	<i>Man'yoshu</i> consists of 20 volumes in total, and was probably established around the end of the Nara period through several stages of compilation work. The time almost corresponds to the period from the reign of Emperor Jomei (629–642) to 759. This book contains about 4,500 poems created by various poets ranging from emperors to common people. <i>Man'yoshu</i> is characterized by a syllabary called man'yo-gana. Major poets include Kakinomoto no Hitomaro, Yamanoue no Okura, Yamabe no Akahito and Otomo no Yakamochi. <i>Man'yoshu</i> is one of works that represent not only Jodai but also Japanese literature as a whole.