

Genroku era (1688 - 1703)

- **golden age of Japanese art**
- **popular culture established and flourished**
- **New art forms such as kabuki and ukiyo-e became very popular mainly between the townspeople**

Kabuki

- **Its first formally recognized show happened during the edo period (1603)**
- **Started by a Shinto priestess named Izumo no Okuni and her troupe of female dancers to raise money for Izumo Taisha shrine**
- **roots in drama, music and dance that can be traced back to the eight century**



- **Great Fire of Meireki (1657) - turning point in urban design**
- **The government built stone embankments in at least two locations along rivers in the city – reduce spread of fire but were eventually replaced with *dōzō* (earthen storehouses) and *anagura* (storage holes)**
- **valuable articles that could not be carried during a fire are placed in *dōzō* and *anagura***



- Earthen *Dōzō* kura (storehouse)
- for fire breaks and to store goods unloaded from the canals
- mostly built and used by merchants
- structural frame: timber coated with a number of layers of earthen plaster on the walls, door and roof
- **bunkogura*
- Specially fortified *dozō* for storing documents
- -never gained popularity due to their higher construction cost



- **Sankin kōtai**

- the law requiring the *daimyōs* to maintain dwellings in the capital

- repealed during the very late part of the period

- result: a) decrease in population in Edo
b) commensurate reduction in income for the shogunate

