

Samurai

Name: _____

Facts About Samurai

- Samurai were Japanese warriors, an army created to protect the noble class from military clans who were fighting between themselves for power.
- In 1868, Japan's feudal era came to an end, and the samurai class was abolished.
- Their most famous weapon was a large sword called a Katana. It was their symbol.
- Samurais believed their sword held their soul, so it was their most important possession.
- To a samurai, death was better than having no honour.
- Their training methods included meditation, judo and kendo.
- There were samurai women. They were expected to fight till the end and die with honour, just like the men.



Do you know any more facts about samurai?

Samurai Weapons and Armour

Samurai gave their sword a name as they believed the sword contained their warrior spirit.

The armour of a samurai was especially designed to be as light and free-moving as possible.

The main samurai swords were the katana (long sword), the wakizashi (short sword) and the tanto (dagger).

If you were a samurai, what would you name your swords?

Besides swords, what other weapons did the samurai use?

Compare samurai armour with the armour of a European mediaeval knight. What were the main differences?



Word Meanings

Bushido means 'Way of the Warrior'. It is a Japanese code of conduct and a way of the samurai life. The Bushido code has seven virtues:

- Rectitude
- Courage
- Benevolence
- Respect
- Honesty
- Honour
- Loyalty

Look up the meaning of the seven virtues, then write each word in a sentence to illustrate its meaning.

Number Crunchers

Mizuki collects Japanese samurai swords and armour. Here are her latest purchases:

3 katana swords for \$2600 each

2 wakizashi swords for \$1800 each

4 tanto swords (daggers) for \$700 each

1 set of Japanese armour \$14 500

How much did all the katana swords cost?

How much did all the tanto swords cost?

How much did all the wakizashi swords cost?

What cost the most, the Japanese armour, or all the samurai swords?

