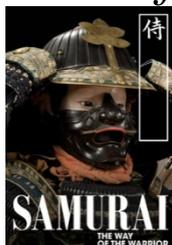




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Samurai: The Way of the Warrior Knowledge Hunt

Introduction

The word samurai is readily associated with Japan. Roughly translated as “those who serve,” the term refers to the armed supporters of wealthy landowners going back to the late 8th century A.D. Over time, the samurai gained power and became warrior-administrators during a period known as the Age of the Samurai, which extended until 1868, lasting almost seven centuries.

Social Studies TEKS

Elementary:

First Grade:	K3 (A, B), K.5 (A), K.11 (A, B)
Second Grade:	1.3(B), 1.6(A, C), 1.10(A), 1.11(B), 1.15(A), 1.17(B), 1.18(A, B), 1.19(A, B)
Third Grade:	2.1(A, B, C), 2.3(B), 2.7(C), 2.10(C), 2.11(A), 2.18(B, D, E), 2.19(A), 2.20(A, B)
Fourth Grade:	4.21(B, C, E), 4.22(A, B, C, D, E), 4.23(A, B)
Fifth Grade:	5.21(B), 5.24(B, C, D, E), 5.25(A, B, C, D), 5.26(A, B)

Middle School:

Sixth Grade:	6.3(A), 6.4(F), 6.5(A, B, C), 6.11(A), 6.12(A), 6.15(E, F), 6.17(A, B, E), 6.21(A, B, C, D, E, F), 6.22 (A, B, C, D), 6.23 (A, B)
Seventh Grade:	7.21(B, C, D, E), 7.22 (A, B, D), 7.23(A, B)
Eighth Grade:	8.29(B, C, H), 8.30(A, B, C, D), 8.31(A, B)

High School:

World History:	1(C, D), 2(B), 3(A), 4(H), 7(F), 21(B), 24(A), 25(A), 30(A, B, C, D), 31(A, B)
World Geography:	1(A), 2(A), 5(A), 6(B), 9(A), 10(B, C, D), 14(C), 16(A, B, C, D), 17(A, B, C, D), 18(A, B, C, D), 21(A, B, C), 22(A, B, C, D, E), 23(A, C)



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Vocabulary

Feudal, samurai, Japan, Nara Period, Heian Period, Kamakura Bakufu, Muromaki Period, Sengoku Period, Edo Period, Tokugawa Shogunate, seppuku, katana, lacquer, daishō, rōnin, Spectacular helmet, yumi, falconry

Knowledge Hunt

An Introduction to the Samurai

Pair of Screens

As you enter the exhibit examine the two pairs of screens, including who is in it and what they are doing.

Answer the following questions:

What do the images here tell you about war in feudal Japan?

Based on the drawings, what do you think this area of Japan is like? What landforms do you see?

What challenges do you think the warriors would face?

Pick one section of either screen and recreate the scene in the space below.



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Background Information

As you examine the text panels, notice how the Age of the Samurai is split into distinct periods. What distinguishing characteristic defines each of the four main periods discussed?

Period	Distinguishing Characteristic
Heian Period	
Kamakura Bakufu	
Sengoku Period	
Tokugawa Shogunate	

Define the following terms:

Term	Definition
Kami-no-kaze	
daishō	
Bushido	
Keppan	
seppuku	
bakufu	



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What are the three ideals of the samurai code?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Timeline

What is one significant event of each of the following periods, both within Japan and in the world?

Period	Event in Japan	Event in the World
Nara Period		
Heian Period		
Kamakura Period		
Muromachi Period		
Sengoku Period		
Edo Period		

Weapons

Examine the various weapons on display, using the information to answer the following questions.

What two weapons did samurai always carry?



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Use the space below to draw a katana and sheath. Label the parts, including the blade, hilt, sheath and tsuba.

For each step in the creation of a katana blade, describe the process involved.

Steps	Process
Creating a <i>tatara</i>	
Heating the iron	
Creating balance and flexibility in the blade	
Polishing of blade	

Armor

In addition to weaponry, samurai warriors protected themselves with armor. Respond to the following questions, based on your observations and inferences of samurai helmets and body armor.

Helmets

As you enter the room that features samurai helmets, observe the first case.

How is the helmet on display similar or different from other helmets you may have seen? Think about images you may have seen of medieval knights in Europe.



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What is the *hachimanza*, and what purpose was it believed to serve?

Use the space below to describe the three common elements of samurai armor.

Element	Description
Bowl (hachi)	
Neck guard (shikoro)	
Decorative crests (kuwagata)	

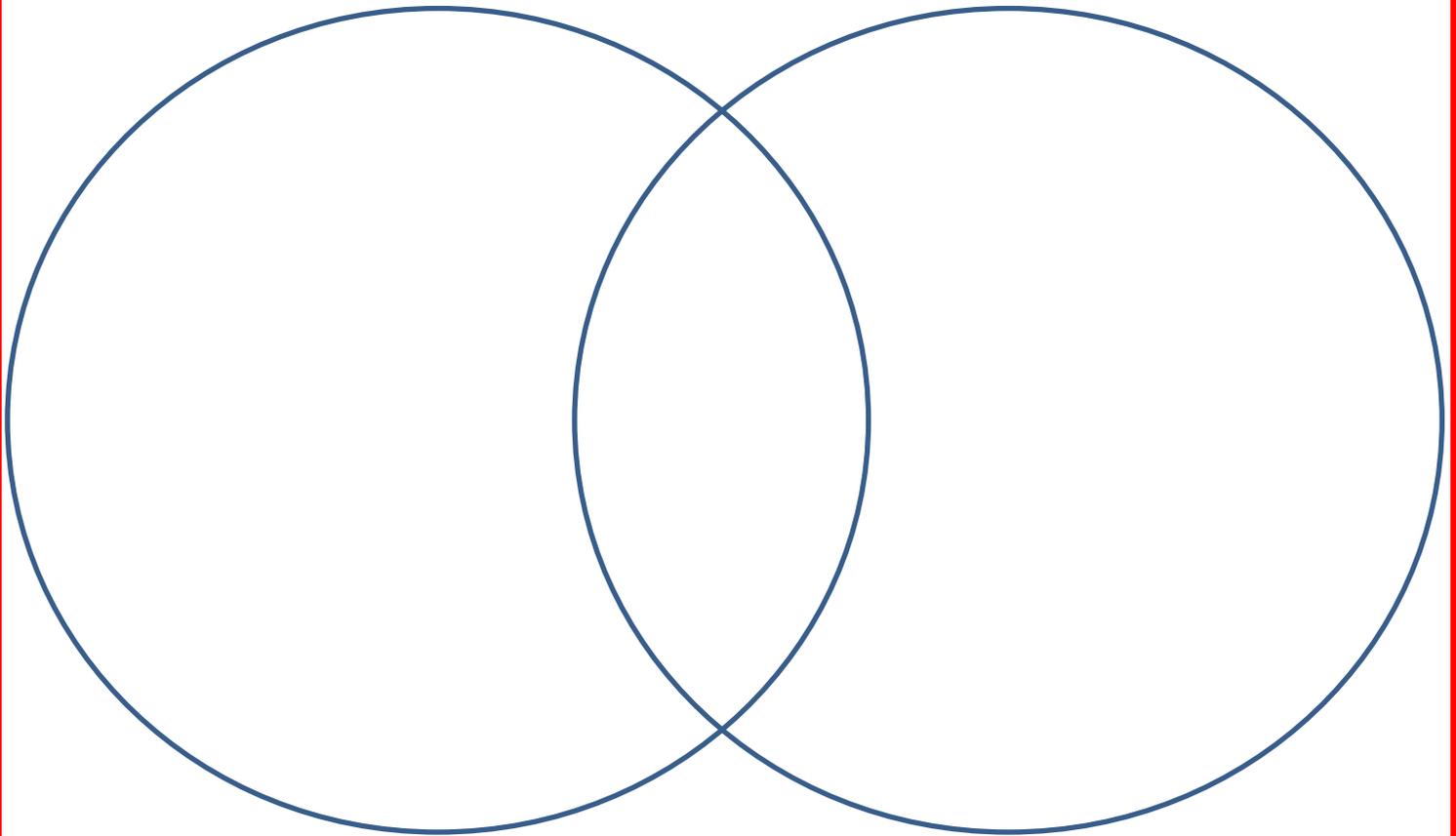
List and describe the four types of helmets

Helmet Type	Helmet Description



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There are two long cases with three helmets each in them – despite both cases containing traditional samurai helmets, they are quite different in appearance. Use the Venn diagram below to compare and contrast the two sets of helmets.





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Pick your favorite helmet in the exhibition and sketch it in the box below. Pay particular attention to any detailing in the helmet's design.

What makes a helmet “spectacular”?

Why did armorers begin incorporating fantastic shapes into helmets?

Full Armor

What are the six basic elements of samurai armor?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.



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While examining the armor, imagine you are a warrior in feudal Japan, about to be sent into battle. How well do you think you would fare with this armor? What are the benefits and drawbacks?

Which two essential elements contributed to samurai armor appeal? Why do you think this is?

It took as much as 250-300 meters of silk to create dō-maru armor. Knowing this, how much silk would it take to create armor for your entire class (including your teacher)?

Look at the large case of armor clad warriors. Do you think they would do well in modern warfare? Why or why not?

Battles and the Battlefield

Why did the archer become almost obsolete?



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Look at the horizontal scroll. Why do you think scrolls are useful means of recording information? Are they more or less useful than a notebook?

Why do you think the scroll includes both words and images?

Look at the text panel labeled “Famous Battles.” There are eight described here. Briefly read about each battle and choose the one that you think was the most important. Respond to the following questions:

Why do you think the battle that you chose is more important than the other seven?

What lasting impact do you think this battle had on the samurai? What evidence do you have?

Look at the war hat on display in front of the Samurai & Horses panel.

What makes this hat unique?

How is a war hat different from the war helmets you saw previously?

Why do you think the samurai had both a war hat and a war helmet?

Horses

When were horses introduced to Japan?



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Why do you think it was more beneficial for samurai warriors to have horses trained to respond to leg pressure, rather than the movement of reins?

What two types of saddles did the samurai use?

Examine the three saddles on display. How do they differ from saddles you may have seen in your own experience?

How are these saddles decorated?

Falconry

Why was falconry important? What was it a symbol of?

Longbow

Imagine wielding a longbow. Do you think it would be easier or more difficult to use than a katana? Why?



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What is the range of the longbow, or yumi?

Lacquer

What is lacquer?

Where does lacquer come from, and how is it collected?

What are the benefits of lacquer?

Samurai Women

What was the role of samurai women?

How did samurai women protect themselves?

Frederick Stibbert

Who was Frederick Stibbert and why is he important to samurai culture?

As you watch the video, imagine you are visiting Frederick Stibbert's collections. What would you most like to see? Why?

The End of the Samurai

What event marked the beginning of the downfall of the samurai?



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Why do you think the event mentioned above was bad for the samurai warriors?

What led to the samurai class eventually being abolished completely?

What does it mean to “become rōnin”?

Why did some samurai commit seppuku?

What happened to the rōnin former samurai?