

Bun and Bu: Balancing Military Prowess and Artful Living

THE HISTORY AND TRADITIONS OF THE SAMURAI

Samurai Military Gear (Some Possible Responses)

1. Swords: The samurai's sword was a work of art as well as a highly effective weapon. How did the design of the sword and the use of it in battle allow a warrior to satisfy the code of the samurai?
 - a. (beautiful materials, carefully crafted – close personal combat requiring courage and heroic behavior)

2. Guns: How and when did the gun become part of the weaponry of the warrior? (from the Portuguese in 1543) What would have been different for a warrior in battle with a sword against a warrior with a gun?
 - a. (a sword requires close combat)
 - Why do you think they continued to use swords?
 - a. (guns took long to load and it was difficult to hit a target on a moving horse)

3. Armor: How would you feel if you were wearing the helmet with the mask during battle? How would the shape and design of this mask make you stand out in battle among many other warriors?
 - a. (portrait-like features, high projection at the back, fierce red color, added hair moustache)

4. Camp Jacket: As with the mask, not every soldier could wear a jacket made and of such valuable materials as this one. This jacket is from the Edo period (1615–1868) when the role of the samurai was often ceremonial rather than military. How does this jacket, made to be worn over armor, reflect this peaceful time in the history of the samurai?
 - a. (more fashion than protection, rich, luxurious materials, showy, decorative for decoration's own sake)