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**Group 4: The Decoration of Japanese Swords**

**Directions:** In your small group, read and annotate the following sources (either as a printouts or online) and then discuss the prompt below.

**Vocab Notes:**

*tsuba*: the sword guard that keeps the owner’s hand from slipping onto the blade

*tsuka*: the sword’s handle

*menuki*: the handle ornament

*fuchigane*: metal decorative piece between the tsuka wrapping and the tsuba

Sources:

Martin, Paul. “Japanese Sword Fittings Showcase the Beauty of Impermanence.” *Japan Forward*. 23 Sept., 2017. Accessed 26 March, 2018.  
URL: <https://japan-forward.com/japanese-swords-fittings-showcase-the-beauty-of-impermanence/>

“Japanese Sword: How to Know if a Tsuka Is good or bad.” *Tozando*. 30 May, 2017. Accessed 26 March, 2018.  
URL: <https://weblog.tozando.com/japanese-sword-how-to-know-if-a-tsuka-is-good-or-bad/>

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| **Discussion:** How did the decoration of Japanese swords help to convey important messages and add to their value? Jot down notes/examples and be ready to share these with your classmates later. |

