

Questions about Samurai in Japan
7th Grade Social Studies

1. Which was part of the **samurai code of conduct**?
 - a. showing loyalty to his or her lord
 - b. being honest and demonstrating bravery
 - c. committing suicide rather than losing personal honor
 - d. all of the above
2. Under the ruling warrior class, the power of the emperor in Japan gave way to a new leader of the daimyos and samurai. What was this commander called?
 - a. Shogun
 - b. Kanji
 - c. Shinto
 - d. Tanka
3. Which was **true** about samurai during the height of the warrior class?
 - a. samurai served their daimyos in fighting for land and power
 - b. women as well as men could be samurai
 - c. developing a high level of skill in archery and the martial arts were part of being a samurai
 - d. all of the above
4. Which was **not true** about samurai battles?
 - a. battles were planned and arranged so both sides could be ready
 - b. the strongest, highest ranked samurai warriors would seek out the weakest, lowest ranked samurai to fight
 - c. the samurai's goal was to get the opponent down on the ground and cut the opponent's throat
 - d. samurai would fire arrows at their enemy as they rode fast on horseback
5. Why would samurai spend time every day meditating about their own death?
 - a. so they could endure pain and fight fearlessly
 - b. so they would not feel guilty about killing their enemies
 - c. so they would not be afraid to grow old
 - d. all of the above
6. Around the 17th century, things were more peaceful in Japan for samurai. In which skills, besides fighting, did many samurai become skilled?
 - a. calligraphy
 - b. writing poetry
 - c. etiquette (proper manners) involved in the tea ceremony
 - d. all the above

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7. Why did samurai feel that practicing religion, especially Zen Buddhism, would be helpful to them?
 - a. Zen Buddhism emphasized independence and self-reliance
 - b. Zen Buddhism emphasized hard work and discipline
 - c. Zen Buddhism emphasized the importance of keeping the mind sharp with thinking puzzles
 - d. all of the above

8. What is **seppuku**?
 - a. a kind of green tea served at the most important tea ceremonies
 - b. ritual suicide
 - c. the lord who ruled over all the samurai in a kingdom
 - d. a special kind of tool used to sharpen samurai sword blades

9. For what **reason** would a samurai commit **seppuku**?
 - a. to shame their lord into behaving better
 - b. to avoid capture in battle
 - c. as a punishment for committing a crime
 - d. all of the above

10. How did the samurai warrior code later influence the way Japanese soldiers and pilots fought during World War II in the 1940's?
 - a. soldiers would kill themselves rather than be captured by the enemy
 - b. they would write poetry to convince the United States to surrender
 - c. they would only fight with swords rather than guns and modern weapons
 - d. they would write their secret messages using calligraphy so the enemy could not understand them