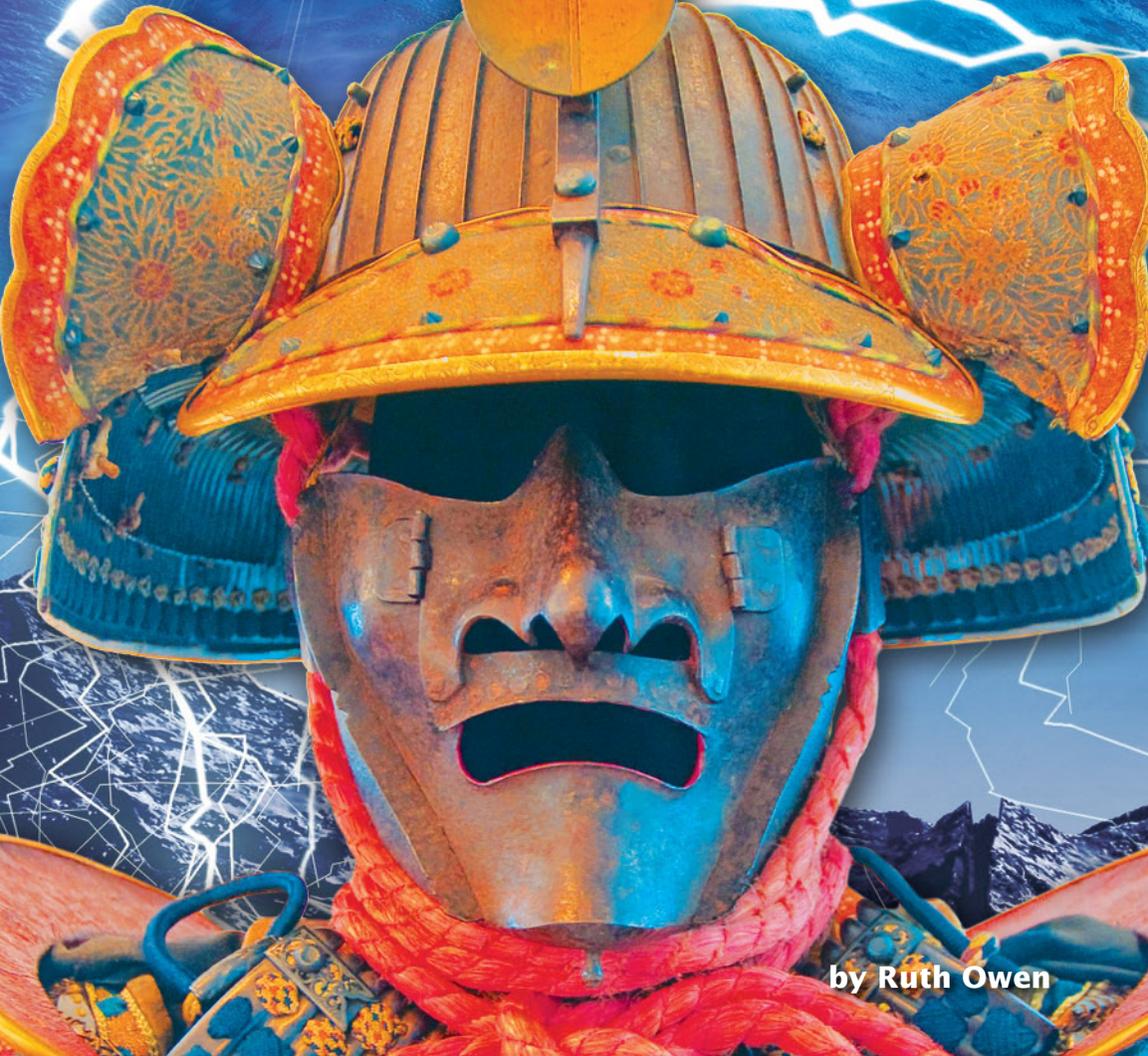


**IT'S A FACT!**

Real-Life  
Reads

The World of the

# SAMURAI WARRIOR



by Ruth Owen

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The World of the  
**SAMURAI  
WARRIOR**

by Ruth Owen

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# CONTENTS

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A Battle to the Death .....	4
The Warriors of Japan .....	6
Life in Japan .....	8
The Way of the Warrior .....	10
A Samurai Childhood .....	12
Fighting on Horseback.....	14
The Samurai Sword .....	16
Learning to Sword Fight.....	18
Samurai Armor.....	20
A Samurai's Day Off.....	22
Going to War .....	24
On the Battlefield.....	26
The Final Battle.....	28
Glossary .....	30
Index .....	32
Read More.....	32
Learn More Online.....	32

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# A Battle to the Death

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Imagine a bloody battlefield. Thousands of warriors are fighting.

Arrows fly through the air. Sharp spears pierce through armor. The deadly blades of the warriors' swords can slice off an opponent's arm or head with a single blow.

The soldiers are highly skilled. They are brutal and brave, and each man will fight to the death. The warriors are the most fearsome fighters the world has ever known.

They are samurai.



# The Warriors of Japan

Samurai were highly trained soldiers who came from Japan.

Around 1,200 years ago, there were many powerful, wealthy men in Japan. These men were known as **daimyos**. They owned land and castles. One daimyo became the **shogun**. He led the country alongside the emperor. The emperor was actually the head of Japan, but he had no real power. It was the shogun and daimyos who truly controlled the country.

The daimyos were often at war. They fought each other to win power and more land.

Each daimyo built up an army of samurai to fight for him.

From AD 1000 to 1600, these armies fought many battles.

A painting of a Japanese daimyo



From 1600 onward, the daimyos tried to live in peace. Samurai had less fighting to do. Instead, they helped the daimyos run the country. There were samurai in Japan until the late 1800s.



This is Himeji Castle in Japan. Parts of it are nearly 700 years old. The castle was owned by many different daimyos over the centuries.

# Index

## A

armies 6, 24–25, 26  
armor 4, 20–21, 24

## B

battles 4, 6, 10, 14, 18,  
20, 22, 24, 26–27, 28  
beheadings 4, 28  
bows and arrows 4, 12,  
14–15, 16, 26  
*Bushido* 10, 12, 22

## C

castles 6–7

## D

*daimyos* 6–7, 8, 10, 12,  
22, 24, 26, 28  
*daisho* 17

## E

emperors 6

## F

food and drink 24

## G

guns 26

## H

helmets 20–21, 28–29  
horses 8, 10–11, 12,  
14–15, 20, 24–25, 26

## J

jujitsu 12–13

## K

karate 13  
*kata* 18  
*katanas* 16–17, 18–19,  
27  
*kemari* 22–23

## M

masks 20–21

## N

*naginata* 14

## S

samurai children 8, 12  
samurai women 12  
*shoguns* 6, 8  
spears 4, 12, 14, 16, 26  
swords 4–5, 12, 16–17,  
18–19, 26, 28

## T

training 6, 12–13, 14,  
18–19, 22

## W

*wakizashi* 16–17, 28

## Read More

**Macdonald, Fiona.** *You Wouldn't Want to Be a Samurai!* Danbury, CT: Franklin Watts (2009).

**Murrell, Deborah.** *Samurai (QEB Warriors).* Mankato, MN: Black Rabbit Books (2009).

## Learn More Online

To learn more about samurai warriors, go to  
[www.rubytuesdaybooks.com/samurai](http://www.rubytuesdaybooks.com/samurai)

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WARRIOR**

In days gone by, fearsome armies of warriors did battle in Japan. The warriors fought with swords, spears, and bows and arrows. They were highly skilled, brave, and brutal. They lived and died by the rules of a strict warrior code. They were the samurai—those who serve.

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Living on Mars

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