

SAMURAI WORKSHEET

DIRECTIONS: *Read the scenarios below and then answer the following questions for each scenario:*

- A. What would a samurai do in this situation? Give evidence.
- B. What would YOU do based upon your own morals and values?

SCENARIO # 1: While walking to your Social Studies class, you notice that a fellow classmate is being bullied by a group of students.

SCENARIO #2: It is near the end of the year and you already know that you are getting a C for your final grade in the class. However, Mr. T has offered you the opportunity to do an extra credit project that will require a lot of research and writing to earn a C or possibly an A for the year.

SCENARIO #3: Due to a bad financial year, the company that you have worked for more than seven years has decided to lay off people. As a result, you lose your job.

SCENARIO #4: You start hanging out with a new group of friends despite being on the team at school with your best friend since kindergarten. Your new group of friends does not want you to invite your best friend out on weekends.

SCENARIO #5: A friend of yours decides to steal the money from the 7-11 and offers to split the money with you if you don't tell on him/her.

SCENARIO #6: Create your own scenario and answer A and B!

Samurai Bushido Code

Originators of the "way of the warrior"

The Samurai Bushido Code (Japanese "way of the warrior", or bushido), was the warrior code of the samurai.

Samurai Warrior Code was a strict code that demanded:

loyalty
devotion
and honor to the death

Under this code, if a samurai warrior failed to uphold his honor he could regain it by performing seppuku (ritual suicide). The samurai Bushido code is an internally-consistent ethical code, grounded in the spiritual approach of the Rinzai school of Zen Buddhism. In its purest form, it demands of its practitioners that they look effectively backward at the present from the moment of their own death, as if they were already, in effect, dead.

The Bushido of the Samurai was also a spiritual basis for those who committed kamikaze attacks during World War II. For this reason many of the martial arts that are rooted in Japanese Bushido were banned by the occupying Americans during the post-war occupation.

There are **seven virtues associated with the samurai bushido code**:

- Gi - Rectitude
- Yu - Courage
- Jin - Benevolence
- Rei - Respect
- Makoto - Honesty
- Meiyo - Honor
- Chugi - Loyalty

BUSHIDO: THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR

DOCUMENT A

The samurai had an unwritten code of behavior that became known as Bushido or “the way of the warrior.” The samurai code emphasized loyalty and family values. It placed great value on courage, honor, self-discipline, and samurais put the needs of others in front of their own. Capture or surrender were dishonorable.

DOCUMENT B – Seppuku

Rather than fall into enemy hands, samurai commonly committed suicide. This act was performed by stabbing a knife into the left side of the abdomen, drawing across to the right and giving a final upward twist to the chest. Samurai committed suicide in this fashion not only to avoid capture, but to make up for any unworthy behavior.

DOCUMENT C – The Code of Bushido

“The business of the samurai consists in reflecting on his own station in life, in discharging loyal service to his master if he has one, in deepening his fidelity (faithfulness) in association with friends, and with the due consideration of his own position in devoting himself to duty above all.”

- Yamaga Soko (1622-1685)

“The way of the warrior (Bushido) is to find a way to die. If a choice is given between life and death, the samurai must choose death. There is no more meaning beyond this. Make up your mind and follow the course. Someone may say, ‘You die in vain if you do not accomplish what you set out to do.’

“If the samurai misses his objectives and continues to live, he must be seen as a coward. If he misses his objectives and chooses death ... this must be a noble act. It is of utmost importance for Bushido. Day and night, if you make an effort to think of death and at a moment’s notice, you and the Bushido will become one. In this way throughout your life you can perform your duties for your master...”

- *Hagakure* by Yamato Tsunetomo, 1716

Directions: Answer the following questions after reading the passages above.

1. What is the main idea of the samurai values?
2. Why might pilots and businessmen commit suicide?
3. How would you describe Samurai behavior?
4. What are some of the values of the Samurai?
5. Why would a Samurai commit suicide?
6. How would you describe bushido?
7. Why would a Samurai choose death?