

Dressed to Kill: Educator Information

Government:

- Historically, Japan's ruling power was a military hierarchy, which had military rulers (the Shogun) and warriors (the Samurai). Japan's government has since changed, as it is now a constitutional monarchy, where the Emperor's power is limited to ceremonial duties and events.

Japan - Population and Geography:

- Japan is one of the most populated countries, and its citizens have the third-longest life expectancy in the world. On average, men live to 81 years of age and women live almost 88 years.
- Nearly three-quarters of Japan's land is made of either forests or mountains.
- Japan is positioned along the "Pacific Ring of Fire," has many volcanoes, and experiences earthquakes, which can cause tsunamis.

Japan - Technology and Culture:

- Japan is a world leader in robotics and produces technologically advanced motor vehicles and electronics.
- When dining, slurping is considered appropriate, as this action indicates the dish is delicious!

Samurai:

- Samurai began their training as young as three years of age. By the age of seven, young samurai would be sent away to live with their instructors.
- Samurai responsibilities included civic obligations, such as issuing punishment to persons who acted outside of the law.
- The Samurai wore the highest fashions and would adorn themselves in metal, silk, gold, ivory, and pearls.
- In addition to mastering creative skills, the Samurai were also collectors. They appreciated the written word (i.e., poetry), functional works (i.e., pottery and ceramics), and decorative objects (i.e., silks, prints and paintings).
- Many Samurai were drawn to the teachings and practices of Zen Buddhism.
- The wealth of a Samurai in feudal Japan was measured in terms of koku. One koku is believed to be the amount of rice it took to feed one man for a year, which was equivalent to approximately 180 liters.