

Name: _____

Date: _____ Block: _____

SAMURAI SHOWDOWN

1. The legendary samurai lived by a strict code of _____, the code of bushido.
2. For _____ years professional soldiers known as samurai defended Japan's warlords.
3. No other weapon is mostly closely associated with the samurai than the _____, the Japanese sword. The sword was more than a weapon to the samurai, it was considered the soul of the warrior and a symbol of their _____.
4. A true katana measures about _____ inches in length. The slight curve in the blade makes it ideal for cutting and _____ rather than stabbing.
5. The Ogasawara school of equine archery is one of the few places where you can still witness yabuseme. Yabusame riders must accurately fire a bow at a series of targets while bouncing on a horse running as fast as _____ miles per hour.
6. The Japanese long bow can stand a full _____ feet in length. The hand grip is only 1/3 of the way up the bow so it can be fired from _____.
7. Matchlock guns were introduced by the _____ in the 1540s and quickly adopted by the samurai armies.
8. A skilled gunman can get off about _____ shots in a minute. Early guns were not as accurate as the bow, but they were more powerful and required less _____.
9. Samurai were paid by the warlords with _____. They made offerings of rice and sake to the gods to be granted courage.
10. The samurai armor is called Tate Nashi, or armor that needs no _____. The protective layer is a flexible mesh of tiny wood or metal scales laced together with _____.
11. The samurai personalized their helmets with ornamentation designed to _____ the enemy.
12. Every foot soldier wore a _____ on their back to identify them in battle.
13. The Japanese spear is called a _____. The metal end is designed specifically to pierce the _____ between samurai armor.
14. In the 17th century the role of the samurai changes from battlefield warrior to that of lone _____.
15. Rice straw is soaked in _____ until it takes on the density of the human body.

16. Skills with the sword were becoming more important because they were entering into the new phase of the ronin, a _____ samurai.

17. The inner layer of a katana is more flexible, while the outer layer needs to hold a _____ edge.

18. Once the inner core is inside the outer core, it takes months to shape the sword. A single katana takes _____ months to complete.

19. Musashi arrives late for the first two duels, a technique designed to _____ his opponents.

20. Musashi fights over _____ duels and never loses.

21. The _____ was adopted as a new weapon, a wooden staff about four feet long.

22. The kusarigama, a _____ on a chain, was believed to originally be an agricultural tool. There is a _____ around the end of the chain to wrap up a person and then come in with the sickle.

23. List facts contrasting these two warriors about to duel:

Sasaki Kojiro

Miyamoto Musashi

24. Musashi arrives _____ hours late with no sword but a piece of wood whittled from an oar.

25. Who wins the duel? _____