

Samurai Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Samurai trivia explores the history, code, and cultural legacy of Japan's warrior class, whose influence shaped politics, warfare, and storytelling for centuries. Expect a mix of easy, family-friendly, funny, and hard questions that separate Hollywood legend from historical fact.

HARD SAMURAI TRIVIA

1. What is the literal meaning of the title "Sei-i Taishōgun"?

Answer: Great General for Subduing the Barbarians.

2. Which clan controlled Kamakura as regents instead of formally holding the shogun title?

Answer: The Hōjō clan.

3. Which war began in 1467 and helped usher in the Sengoku period?

Answer: The Onin War.

4. Who founded the city of Sendai in 1600?

Answer: Date Masamune.

5. The fall of the Toyotomi house came with the end of the Battle of Osaka in what year?

Answer: 1615.

6. Which two-sword style is traditionally associated with Miyamoto Musashi?

Answer: Niten Ichi-ryū.

7. What phrase appeared on Takeda Shingen's battle standard?

Answer: Furinkazan.

8. In what year did the forty-seven rōnin carry out their revenge?

Answer: 1703.

9. Whose death set the forty-seven rōnin incident in motion?

Answer: Asano Naganori.

10. What conflict stretched across 1868 to 1869?

Answer: The Boshin War.

11. Who was a leading figure in the Satsuma Rebellion?

Answer: Saigō Takamori.

12. Which 1876 edict restricted the public wearing of swords?

Answer: The Haitōrei edict.

13. In the 1870s, what were former samurai stipends converted into?

Answer: Government bonds.

14. Which legal code was promulgated in 701?

Answer: The Taihō Code.

FUNNY SAMURAI TRIVIA

1. If a samurai's boss situation was officially a bit complicated, what was a samurai without a lord called?

Answer: A samurai without a lord was called a rōnin.

2. What Japanese term could a warrior use if they wanted to say "samurai," but with a slightly different word choice?

Answer: Bushi is another Japanese term for a warrior or samurai.

3. On some samurai helmets, what was the long cord called—the original "please don't lose your headgear" accessory?

Answer: The long cord on some samurai helmets was called a kabuto-no-oto.

4. What was the name of the samurai topknot hairstyle that says, "battle ready, but also hair appointment secured"?

Answer: The samurai topknot hairstyle was called a chonmage.

5. What is the name for the famous samurai two-sword combo—the historical version of a matching set?

Answer: The pair of long and short swords worn by samurai is called daishō.

6. In the daishō pair, which sword is the shorter one—the sidekick, not the main character?

Answer: The shorter sword in a daishō pair is typically a wakizashi.

7. Which traditional Japanese dagger might a samurai carry when a full-length sword felt like overpacking?

Answer: A tantō is a traditional Japanese dagger sometimes carried by samurai.

8. What was the banner on a samurai's back called—the battlefield equivalent of saying, "Yes, I'm with this team"?

Answer: The banner worn on a samurai's back in battle was called a sashimono.

9. If even the horse showed up dressed for combat, what was samurai horse armor called?

Answer: Samurai horse armor was known as uma yoroi.

10. What was the samurai face mask called—the piece that says "intimidating" before the swords even come out?

Answer: A samurai face mask was called a menpō.

11. Which item was the giant war fan used by commanders for signaling, proving not every fan is for keeping cool?

Answer: The giant war fan used for signaling was called a gunbai.

12. What is the name of the asymmetrical longbow used in Japanese archery—the bow that clearly refused to be ordinary?

Answer: The asymmetrical longbow used in Japanese archery is called a yumi.

13. Mounted samurai put their feet in what kind of stirrup, known specifically as an abumi?

Answer: The stirrup used by mounted samurai was called an abumi.

FUN SAMURAI TRIVIA

1. If you sit down for the original version of 'Seven Samurai,' about how many minutes of sword-swinging cinema are you signing up for?

Answer: 207 minutes

2. Which Akira Kurosawa samurai film shares its name with a famously cool and crafty hero?

Answer: Sanjuro

3. Who directed the 1962 samurai film 'Harakiri'?

Answer: Masaki Kobayashi

4. Masaki Kobayashi returned to samurai drama with which 1967 film?

Answer: Samurai Rebellion

5. Who directed the 2003 film 'The Last Samurai'?

Answer: Edward Zwick

6. What anime first aired in 2004 and mixes samurai style with a modern vibe?

Answer: Samurai Champloo

7. Who created 'Samurai Champloo'?

Answer: Shinichirō Watanabe

8. Which creator unleashed the time-traveling warrior of 'Samurai Jack' on animation fans?

Answer: Genndy Tartakovsky

9. Netflix released which animated samurai series in 2023?

Answer: Blue Eye Samurai

10. Who wrote the manga 'Lone Wolf and Cub'?

Answer: Kazuo Koike

11. The striking art in 'Lone Wolf and Cub' was drawn by whom?

Answer: Goseki Kojima

12. Who directed the 2010 samurai film '13 Assassins'?

Answer: Takashi Miike

13. In 'Seven Samurai,' who played the wild-card warrior Kikuchiyo?

Answer: Toshiro Mifune

SAMURAI FAMILY TRIVIA

1. What is the name of Japan's best-preserved feudal castle in Hyōgo Prefecture?

Answer: Himeji Castle

2. Which historic castle is celebrated as one of Japan's most famous?

Answer: Kumamoto Castle

3. Nikkō Tōshō-gū enshrines which famous leader?

Answer: Tokugawa Ieyasu

4. Which loyal general served Tokugawa Ieyasu?

Answer: Honda Tadakatsu

5. In premodern Japanese armies, what was the name for a foot soldier?

Answer: ashigaru

6. In what year did the Satsuma Rebellion take place?

Answer: 1877

7. Which visitor arrived in Japan in 1853 and helped trigger major political change?

Answer: Commodore Perry

8. What major change began in 1868 and ended samurai rule?

Answer: The Meiji Restoration

9. Japan formally abolished the feudal domains in what year?

Answer: 1871

10. The Satsuma Domain was based in what present-day prefecture?

Answer: Kagoshima Prefecture

11. Which prefecture sits at the southern end of Kyushu?

Answer: Kagoshima Prefecture

12. Sekigahara, site of a pivotal 1600 battle, is in which prefecture?

Answer: Gifu Prefecture

EASY SAMURAI TRIVIA

1. What is the curved sword most closely associated with samurai?

Answer: katana

2. Who wrote the martial text 'The Book of Five Rings'?

Answer: Miyamoto Musashi

3. Which leader founded the Tokugawa shogunate in 1603?

Answer: Tokugawa Ieyasu

4. Oda Nobunaga is counted among Japan's three major what?

Answer: unifiers

5. After Oda Nobunaga's death, who completed much of Japan's unification?

Answer: Toyotomi Hideyoshi

6. What is the ethical code popularly linked with samurai conduct?

Answer: Bushido

7. What is a traditional samurai helmet called?

Answer: kabuto

8. Which term refers to a ritual form of samurai suicide?

Answer: seppuku

9. A samurai retainer would typically serve what kind of feudal lord?

Answer: daimyo

10. What city was the seat of Japan's first shogunate?

Answer: Kamakura

11. Who is the famous female warrior from Japanese history and legend?

Answer: Tomoe Gozen

12. Who directed the film 'Seven Samurai'?

Answer: Akira Kurosawa

13. Which studio developed the 2020 game 'Ghost of Tsushima'?

Answer: Sucker Punch Productions

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/samurai>