



## BUSHIDO: WAY OF THE SAMURAI

By National Gallery of Victoria

Teachers' Notes

2016

### JAPANESE

*A suit of armour with horse saddle, stirrups and trappings*

1665

Metal, wood, pigments, lacquer, gold paint, silk, cotton,  
leather, gilt

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

Acquired, 1889

460.1-32-D2

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National  
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Victoria

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## ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

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These Teacher's Notes have been created to provide teachers with ideas for extending their experience of *Bushido: Way of the Samurai* beyond the presentation and workshop. The activities are designed to be open-ended and multi-ability. They may need differentiation for your specific cohort.

The performances and workshops included in the Education & Families program are designed to offer students engaging performing arts experiences with strong links to Victorian Curriculum, and to VEYLDF, and VCE subjects where appropriate. Each Education & Families performance varies in its content and as a result the scope for integration across the curriculum varies. Please feel free to contact the Education and Families team on (03) 9644 1808 or at [education@rav.net.au](mailto:education@rav.net.au) if you have any questions about this resource, its content or its implementation within your classroom.

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## ABOUT REGIONAL ARTS VICTORIA

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Regional Arts Victoria inspires art across the state. Through creative facilitation, touring, education, specialised resources, artistic projects and advocacy, we develop and sustain creative communities and artistic practice all over Victoria.

Regional Arts Victoria is an independent, not-for-profit, membership-based organisation working in long-term partnerships with every level of government, fostering contemporary and innovative regional cultural practice across five decades. We advise and impact on decision-making across multiple portfolios and levels of government.

Regional Arts Victoria is the peak body for regional artists and arts organisations, and the leading organisation for regional creative practice in Victoria.

### Our artistic program

Regional Arts Victoria inspires creative communities, creative places and creative catalysts.

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES	CREATIVE PLACES	CREATIVE CATALYSTS
Regional Arts Victoria stimulates and connects our state's communities of practice.	Regional Arts Victoria champions the places where art is made, experienced and discussed.	Regional Arts Victoria fosters current and next generation creative capacity and practice.
<p>Members and membership services: fostering active and engaged artists and arts organisations across the state; supporting arts professionalism through specialised resources and professional insurance</p> <p>Resources, workshops and events program of forums and activities through our Regional Cultural Partnerships Program</p> <p>Networks: hosting specialised state-wide and national networks (including Regional Cultural Network, Festivals Network, Arts Teachers); participating actively in regional development networks; accessing and developing New Networks at membership and organisational level</p> <p>Strategic partnerships with governments, universities, tourism, planning and development bodies as well as arts and cultural organisations</p>	<p>Performing Arts Touring: opportunities, tools and support for regional and remote touring across Victoria and Australia</p> <p>Education &amp; Families: performances, workshops and projects in schools, accompanied by AusVELS aligned teacher resources</p> <p>State-wide place-making projects including –</p> <p><i>Home is where the hall is:</i> November's month-long celebration of arts events in regional community halls</p> <p><i>Eco-Cubby:</i> promoting the principles of sustainable design and architecture in schools, hands-on</p> <p><i>Small Town Transformations:</i> innovative projects of significant local and regional impact, combined with state-wide thought leadership on "How can art transform your town?"</p>	<p>Advocacy and leadership: leading state-wide arts conversations; creating exposure for regional artists; providing strategic advice</p> <p>Creative Leadership Program: annual program for emerging arts and thought leaders</p> <p>Creative Arts Facilitators: our regional staff team work directly with artists and communities, in close partnership with local and federal government</p> <p>Access and diversity including Indigenous engagement and cultural exchange</p> <p>Grants programs: facilitating and supporting high quality applications to quick response, presentation and project grants, administered on behalf of state and federal government</p>

## EDUCATION & FAMILIES TEAM

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Regional Arts Victoria's Education & Families team pride ourselves on providing relevant and exciting activities for children and young people that are complementary to both Victorian and Australian curriculums. All of our tours come with a free set of education resources to further enrich your arts experience.

Our team is available to provide local contacts and links to research, and offer advice on how to make the most of the arts at your school or centre. Our office is a resource for Victorian teachers, so we encourage you to make use of us!

We also provide significant subsidy assistance (up to 50% of program costs) to eligible remote and disadvantaged schools. Your school may be eligible so please contact us to find out more!

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## CURRICULUM LINKS – Victorian Curriculum

*Bushido: Way of the Samurai* is suited to a range of year levels – 5 – 9. The Arts descriptors below are general and the material is readily adaptable to suit groups outside of this range. The excerpts provided will give a good indication of how the program relates to different learning areas in the new Victoria Curriculum.

Content will be adapted by experienced educators to suit the level of each booked group.

Learning Areas	Capabilities
<p><b>The Arts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students learn as artist and viewer</li> <li>• Students learn through making and responding.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strands:</b> <i>Bushido Way of the Samurai</i> gives students the opportunity to explore all Visual Arts Strands appropriate to their levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore and Express ideas</li> <li>• Visual Arts Practices</li> <li>• Present and Perform</li> <li>• Respond and Interpret</li> </ul>	<p><b>Critical and Creative Thinking</b> Critical and creative thinking capability aims to ensure that students develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding of thinking processes and an ability to manage and apply these intentionally</li> <li>• Skills and learning dispositions that support logical, strategic, flexible and adventurous thinking</li> <li>• Confidence in evaluating thinking and thinking processes across a range of familiar and unfamiliar contexts.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Languages (Japanese)</b> Strengthens the student’s understanding of the nature of language, culture, and the processes of communication.</p> <p>Character Languages ( * Japanese curriculum is still being finalised). These are languages whose writing system is either syllabic, ideographic, or a combination of syllables and ideograms, involving different reading processes from alphabet reading, and the learning of the new script.</p> <p>Intercultural knowledge and language awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate culture and cultural identity</li> <li>• Explore and compare cultural knowledge, beliefs and practices</li> <li>• Develop respect for cultural diversity.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Intercultural Capability</b> The Intercultural capability curriculum assists young people to become responsible local and global citizens, equipped for living and working together in an interconnected world. Intercultural capability aims to develop knowledge, understandings and skills to enable students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate an awareness of and respect for cultural diversity within the community</li> <li>• Reflect on how intercultural experiences influence attitudes, values and beliefs</li> <li>• Recognise the importance of acceptance and appreciation of cultural diversity for a cohesive community.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Humanities: Most relevant to levels 7 and 8</b>  <b>History</b> :The Asia Pacific World  Japan under the Shoguns  Students identify and explain patterns of change and continuity over time. They analyse the causes and effects of events and developments. They identify the motives and actions of people at the time. Students evaluate the significance of individuals and groups and how they were influenced by the beliefs and values of their society. They evaluate different interpretations of the past.</p> <p><b>Looking at World Views and Religions</b></p>	<p><b>Personal and Social Capability:</b> enabling students to understand themselves and others, and manage their relationships, lives, work and learning more effectively.</p>
<p><b>Health and Physical Education</b> Health and Physical Education is the key learning area in the curriculum that focuses explicitly on developing movement skills and concepts students require to participate in physical activities with competence and confidence.</p> <p>Although not a dominant Learning area, the workshop explores some elements of Japanese martial arts – (Kendo) and aims to teach students some basic movements and poses.</p>	<p><b>Ethical Capability</b> The Ethical Capability curriculum explores what it means for both an individual and society to live well. Students examine what we ought to do, how we ought to live, what kind of society we should have and what kind of person one should be. These questions concern individuals alone and relationships between people, and between people and environmental, social and economic systems. Examination of Bushido, the samurai code, offers rich opportunities for discussion about our responsibilities to ourselves, our leaders and our society.</p>

**Cross Curriculum priority**

The cross-curriculum priorities, Asia and Australia’s Engagement with Asia, is embedded in the learning areas of the Victorian Curriculum F–10.

The peoples and countries of Asia are diverse in ethnic background, traditions, cultures, belief systems and religions.

The peoples and countries of Asia have contributed and continue to contribute to world history and human endeavour.

The arts and literature of Asia influence aesthetic and creative pursuits within Australia, the region and globally.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAM

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*Bushido: Way of the Samurai* explores the fascinating world of the samurai who were the warriors, rulers and aristocratic elite of Japanese society for more than 800 years.

From the 12th century through to the end of the Edo period in 1868 the Shogun, regional lords and their warrior retainers (all samurai in their own right) ruled the country and lived to a strict code of ethics. This military aristocracy aspired to a life of spiritual harmony that not only perfected the art of war but also embodied an appreciation of the fine arts that established their life as an art form itself. Throughout these tumultuous times of war and peace samurai virtues of honesty, courage, benevolence, respect, self-sacrifice, self-control, duty and loyalty, combined with a passion for a cultural lifestyle, not only established social stability, but also cultivated a legacy of art and culture in Japanese society that continues to this day.

Students will be introduced to the world of the samurai through an illustrated talk featuring images of works in the NGV Collection including samurai attire such as armour and helmets, and objects relating to the cultural pursuits of the samurai including Noh costumes, calligraphic scrolls, lacquer objects and tea utensils.

The helmet or 'kabuto' was the most important part of the samurai armour. High ranking officials would commission elaborate helmets to use in ceremony and to identify themselves in battle. Following the introduction to the exhibition, students will participate in a practical workshop. Using card, embellishments and their own ingenuity, students will create a samurai helmet of their own, complete with a personal crest or 'mon'.

### **Program overview:**

Introduction to *Bushido: Way of the Samurai* including an insight into the life and traditions of feudal Japan (illustrated powerpoint/interactive discussion with students led by NGV Educators. (20 mins);

Introduction to workshop activity (10 mins);

Workshop activity for students to create their own samurai helmet using cardboard, staplers, tapes, scissors (50 mins);

Please note schools are invited to participate in an introduction to the *Bushido Way of the Samurai* program via videoconference with NGV Educators prior to the program. The school based program will be adjusted accordingly.

### **This program aims to:**

Engage teachers and students in acquiring authentic and culturally respectful information;

Build factual knowledge about art, history, religion, cultural traditions, the role of the artist and the use of materials and techniques;

Support teachers and students in developing skills in intercultural understanding;

Develop Asia literacy, the understanding and valuing of the wealth of artistic and cultural traditions of Asia, and the links we share across countries and cultures.



## SUPPORT MATERIAL

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The *Bushido: Way of the Samurai* program is supported by the *NGV Asian Art Learning Resource*, which has been sent to every Victorian school, and which can also be found on the NGV website at [www.ngv.vic.gov.au/asianart](http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/asianart). The *NGV Asian Art Learning Resource* includes images of key works from the NGV's Asian Collection, with curatorial text and educational material (including linguistic references) that can be used to guide student inquiry, stimulate thinking and develop greater understanding of the artistic and cultural traditions of Asia.

The *Bushido: Way of the Samurai* language resource, developed in conjunction with the DET, provides Japanese language activities based around works from *Bushido: Way of the Samurai* and teacher's notes for selected works.

[www.ngv.vic.gov.au/school\\_resource/bushido-way-of-the-samurai-language-resource-for-students-of-japanese](http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/school_resource/bushido-way-of-the-samurai-language-resource-for-students-of-japanese)

The *Bushido: Way of the Samurai* exhibition page contains further information about life in the times of the samurai including an essay, key images and label texts.

[www.ngv.vic.gov.au/exhibition/bushido](http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/exhibition/bushido)

### NGV ASIAN ART COLLECTION

The NGV has collected art from the countries of Asia since 1862; one year after the Gallery was established. The Asian collection includes paintings, woodblock prints, ceramics, screens, scrolls, costumes, textiles, puppetry and bronze sculptures from China, Japan, Korea, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Burma, Vietnam and Indonesia from 2400 BC to the twenty-first century.



The Pauline Gandel Gallery of Japanese Art hosts a regularly changing display of the NGV's collection of Japanese art, including ancient negoro lacquer, Noh theatre robes and masks, fine porcelain, samurai armour, exquisite folding screens, tea utensils, wood block prints from the golden age of Ukiyo-e, Buddhist sculpture, textiles and contemporary ceramic works. These objects display the mastery of Japanese craftsmanship and creativity and bring to life the history and culture of Japan.

#### **JAPANESE**

*Armour* (18th century)

metal, wood, pigment, lacquer, gold paint,  
silk, cotton, leather, metal thread

(a-k) 136.0 x 56.0 x 45.0 cm (overall)  
(installation)

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

Gift of Mrs Henry Darlot, 1888

2066.a-k-D1A

## SUPPORT MATERIAL

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### NGV Collection Online

Includes images of hundreds of works from our Asian Art Collection:

[www.ngv.vic.gov.au/col/collections/area/asian-art](http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/col/collections/area/asian-art)

### NGV Education Resources

The National Gallery of Victoria's NGV Education page features a wealth of information about the Gallery's collections, professional development resources, in-house and outreach education programs and the VCE Top Arts exhibition. Find it here:

[www.ngv.vic.gov.au/explore/education/](http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/explore/education/)

## SUGGESTED PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

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### **What is Asia?**

Discuss with students the many different countries that comprise the continent of Asia.

- Geography
- Philosophy and Belief
- Culture

### **Understanding Japan:**

Find out and share something about the people, geography and history of Japan: Where is it? What does it look like? How many people live there? What makes it unique?

Find and watch short films on cultural practices and art forms like the tea ceremony, Noh theatre, kendo and sword making

## SUGGESTED POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES

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The **NGV Asian Art Learning Resource** Teacher's Booklet contains many suggestions for activities related to works pictured in the Resource by country, theme or year level.

### **Pictures of the Floating World**

#### *Create your own story*

This education resource was developed in conjunction with the exhibition *Pictures of the Floating World* (2005) which presented more than 100 Japanese woodblock prints from the NGV Collection. Ukiyo-e (literally 'pictures of the floating world'), was applied to the popular arts of painting, woodblock prints and illustrated books that depicted life in the great urban centres of Japan in the Edo period (1615–1868). This innovative resource features an interactive animation that allows students to create their own stories using the characters and backgrounds of the Pictures of the Floating World. It also provides background information on the Ukiyo-e art form and the heroic and supernatural characters it depicted.

[www.ngv.vic.gov.au/learn/schools-resources/pictures-of-the-floating-world](http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/learn/schools-resources/pictures-of-the-floating-world)

#### **Other activities**

- Make a concertina book to fill with brush painting and haiku (a Japanese poetry form – usually reflecting on nature - consisting of three lines of five, seven and five syllables).
- Use Japanese book binding to make a sketchbook. \*\* Use the sketch book to record your observations of nature or people, like Katsushika Hokusai, the self-professed 'drawing maniac' (see the page in the NGV Asian Art Learning Resource *Ukiyo-e in Edo Japan*).
- Design make and print a woodblock print based on the seasons, a famous samurai or a kabuki actor.
- Find out about some contemporary Japanese artists and designers. Some might include Yayoi Kusama (art), Akira Kurosawa (film), Hiraki Sawa (film and Photography), Yohji Yamamoto (fashion) How does their work relate to the art and culture of samurai times?
- Make a work inspired by the artist you have researched.

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT NGV

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- The National Gallery of Victoria was founded in 1861 to collect, conserve, develop and promote the state's works of art and bring art to the people of Victoria.
- Across its two sites, The Ian Potter Centre; NGV Australia, Federation Square and NGV International, St Kilda Road, the Gallery presents a dynamic range of exhibitions and programs to engage all sectors of the community.
- In 2013, the total number of visitors to the NGV was 1,941,921 making it the most visited gallery in Australia.
- Entry to the NGV is free for all to enjoy.
- The NGV has an exhibition space of almost 19,000 square metres across both buildings.
- The smallest work in the NGV Collection is 'Wdjat' eye, a piece of pottery from Egypt measuring just 0.7 x 0.1 x 0.3 cm. The largest painting in the NGV Collection is John Herbert's *Moses bringing down the Tables of the Law* (c. 1872–1878), purchased in 1878, which measures 344.4 x 633.5 cm.
- The oldest work in the NGV Collection is a brick made from unfired clay from Iraq, 5000 BC.
- The earliest purchased work in the NGV Collection is an engraving by Eugen E. Schäffer, *The Pieta in the Arena Chapel* c. 1851-1852 which was purchased in 1860.
- The NGV Collection includes over 70,000 works of art across many media and art forms including decorative arts, prints and drawings, photography, sculpture, fashion and textiles, and new media.
- The first painting purchased by the NGV was *On the ice, Stockholm 1853* by Per Cedergren. This work was purchased in 1861, the year the Gallery opened.
- The Leonard French stained glass ceiling at NGV International is 51.206 metres long, 14.325 metres wide and 1.22 metres deep. Due to the weight of the glass, the ceiling could not be built flat, and was therefore made of triangular sections projecting downward. The ceiling is made of 224 triangular pieces of glass in 50 colours and took five years to construct.
- The Waterwall at NGV International was intended to emphasise the simple shape of the building by the water's movement. The glass is 20 metres wide and 6 metres high and is the support for a continually running, recycled water curtain.
- The NGV's birthday, 24 May, was Queen Victoria's birthday and the Gallery's first exhibition was held to coincide with this date.
- Since reopening in 2002, more than 14 million visitors have enjoyed the displays in the NGV's two buildings. Overall, it is possible that more than 150 million visitors have visited the NGV in the past 150 years.

- In 2009, the NGV was recognised as the 20th most visited art gallery in the world, with 1.6 million visitors, and the most visited art gallery in Australia.
- The first collection of works purchased for the opening in 1861 included plaster casts of the Elgin Marbles, gems and coins.
- The NGV Collection is currently estimated to be worth over \$3.5 billion. Of this, approximately \$2 billion worth of art has been acquired through the Felton Bequest.

## FURTHER READING

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### Regional Arts Victoria

[www.rav.net.au](http://www.rav.net.au)

### National Gallery of Victoria

[www.ngv.vic.gov.au](http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au)

### Asia Education Foundation

AEF's web portal and AEF programs and resources are specifically designed to support an Asia literate curriculum. AEF plays a pivotal role in sourcing, creating, assessing and disseminating high quality curriculum materials that cater to all year levels and subject areas.

[www.asiaeducation.edu.au](http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au)

### Studies Of Asia Wiki

The Studies of Asia wiki is devoted to resources and documents supporting the curriculum priority of Asia and Asia's engagement with Asia

[studiesofasia.wikispaces.com](http://studiesofasia.wikispaces.com)

### Online Museum Resources On Asian Art

A website devoted to compiling online resources on Asian Art from around the world

[afemuseums.easia.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/museums/search.cgi](http://afemuseums.easia.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/museums/search.cgi)

### Origami : How to fold a paper crane:

A Japanese legend says that if a person folds a thousand paper cranes, then his wish will come true. Clear instructions for how to fold a paper crane can be found at:

<http://sydney.edu.au/engineering/it/~aquigley/Homestay/files/crane.html>; or

[www.origami-instructions.com](http://www.origami-instructions.com)

Contact the Education and Families team at [education@rav.net.au](mailto:education@rav.net.au) with further questions or, even better, examples of your work!

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REGIONAL  
ARTS  
VICTORIA

**EDUCATION & FAMILIES**

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