

Knights!

- knights were similar to the samurai in Japanese society
 - were to be respected
 - were allowed to carry swords
 - were responsible for protection of lords

- were a couple major differences:
 - were NOT at the top of feudal society
 - had to answer to lords and to the king
 - had to follow orders from those above
 - supposed to look after peasants, rather than shun them

Background to Becoming A Knight

- only a noble's son could become a knight

- at the age of 7, these kids would move into a castle and become a **page**
 - a helper
 - learned religion, good manners, reading and writing, and music

- at the age of 14, pages would become **squires**
 - learned to ride horses, to hunt, to wear armour, and to use weapons

- when his training was complete, the Lord held a special ceremony where he "knighted" the squire
 - touch each shoulder with a sword and declare him formally a knight
 - STILL do this in England for special people

Chivalry

- knights had to follow certain rules, called **The Code of Chivalry**

- taught them how to behave and how to live

- be brave and loyal
- fight for the Lord and King
- be polite to everyone, especially women
- defend the Christian religion
- protect farmers on the Lord's land

- important to keep in mind... many of these rules were never really followed too closely

- most knights were thugs and bullies

Knight Warfare!

- knights were constantly fighting

- could be overseas, could be the next Lord...

- fought using a vast array of weaponry:

- lances while on horseback
- longswords while on the ground
- anything else: maces, clubs, morningstars, halberds, axes, etc.

- oddly to people today, knights would try to capture their foes, rather than kill them

- was a way of raising money!

- ◆ would ransom the person (fork over the cash, or the Lord gets it...)
- ◆ would keep the money to buy new stuff