



**Battle Boy – Samurai Secrets
Teacher’s Notes**

Introduction

In *Samurai Secrets* Battle Boy 005 (Napoleon Augustus Symthe) is once again spinning through time to spy on the past. This time, however, he is accompanied by someone close to him; someone who was a Battle Boy many years ago – his dad!

In this super secret battle, BB005 travels back to 13th century Japan to meet some samurai. He observes the 4400 strong fleet of Kublai Khan, the Mongol Warlord and emperor of China. After being mistaken for a ninja, escaping a volcano and saving a princess, BB005 realises there is an even more important reason for the mission and it's to do with his father...

Curriculum Links

History: Significant People and Places

English: Reading, Writing, Talking, Listening, Researching, Presenting

Mathematics: Mapping

ICT: Using Technology

Science: Design and Make, Investigating

Creative and Performing Arts: Drawing, Painting, Design

PDHPE: Decision Making, Interpersonal Relationships

Learning Outcomes

Students will have the opportunity to

- read texts independently and in groups
- respond to themes and issues in a text
- draw on a range of skills and strategies to read and comprehend a text
- explain the significance of particular people, actions and events in the past
- locate places on a map
- research events of historical significance
- use a computer program to present and display information as well as to research information
- write in different genres or text types
- use an art form to create and interpret a scene from the book

Before You Read

Look at the title and front cover picture of *Samurai Secrets*. Write a short paragraph suggesting what the story may be about. Read out your ideas to the rest of the class and compare thoughts. Share your experiences of other Battle Boy books you have read and of books in the same genre.

Read the Book

Read *Samurai Secrets* as directed by your teacher in one of the following ways

- as a whole class
- in small reading groups
- individually.

Stop every now and then to re-evaluate where you think the story may be heading.

Discuss your ideas with a friend as well as parts of the story you like and why. What did you like most in the story?

After You Read

Use the following questions to promote discussion of the book. Discuss these questions as a class or write the answers down.

1. Napoleon couldn't wait to get older. (p1) Why do you think kids always want to be older and adults want to be younger?
2. How did Napoleon's dad get through security into the Special Reading Room? Did this surprise Napoleon? (p8)
3. What was the mystery surrounding Napoleon's dad? (p9)
4. Professor Perdu said she told Napoleon things on a 'need-to-know basis'. What does this mean? (p10)
5. Why did Prince Najito think Napoleon was a ninja? (p53)
6. What did Najito mean when he referred to the dragon's tongue? Why was it called this? (p55)
7. What made the samurai laugh? (p65)
8. What did Napoleon's dad need to put right on his second visit to Japan? (p69)
9. What was the likely cause of the disappearance of Kublai Khan's fleet? (p85)
10. What was the real mission objective for BB005 and XBB005? (p87)

Classroom Activities

Kublai Khan

BB005's mission involves the historical figure Kublai Khan. Use books or the internet to discover all you can about Kublai Khan. Include dates, battles, conquests, mysteries, what he founded, and any other interesting facts. Include maps and pictures and present your information using a computer program or in the form of a poster.

Poor Peasants

Read the description of the peasant outfits on pages 13 and 15. Sketch Napoleon and his father in their peasant outfits. Label each different part of the outfits.

Samurai and Ninjas

Draw up two columns and write the heading 'Samurai' in one column and 'Ninja' in the other column. Write down some dates, facts and details about each group including any similarities and differences. Include pictures of the samurai and the ninja. Write a short paragraph saying whether you would have preferred to be a samurai or a ninja in the 13th and 14th centuries, and why.

Fantastic Fingerwinch

Battle Boy's equipment is updated each time he goes on a mission. Helping Hand is given a new feature for Battle Boy's new mission. Write a description of this new feature - the Fingerwinch (p17). List how it works and what it is useful for. Write down four things you could use the Fingerwinch for in your everyday life.

Clever CamoCape

The CamoCape is a device used in the mission for camouflage. Look at the CamoCape on page 18 then draw, colour and write about three ways you could camouflage yourself. Include when you would need to be camouflaged and why it would be helpful.

Great Geography

Locate Japan on a world map or globe. Find the island of Kyushu. Write down 10 things you know about Japan. Design a travel brochure to encourage tourists to visit Japan.

Fleet Fleet

Reread pages 30 and 31 of *Samurai Secrets* and refer to the illustration of the fleet of boats and ships. Find and use recyclable and craft materials to make a boat that could have been part of the Mongol fleet. Display all the boats around the room to make your own class fleet.

Great Games

Look at different types of board games as inspiration to create your own game. Work with a small group of classmates and include events and features from *Samurai Secrets*. Design a board with a path to follow, fact or question cards, a dice and pieces to move around the board.

Interesting Idioms

Samurai Secrets uses many expressions that are idioms. Write the meanings of the following idioms:

a piece of cake (p33)

a close shave (p38)

dressed to kill. (p33)

List some other idioms you know. Write what they mean.

Scary Spiders

Prince Najito tried to make Napoleon talk by sending him into a pit of spiders. (p51) Use the internet or books and choose three interesting spiders to research.

For each spider include a description of:

appearance, habitat, diet, webs, scientific name, life cycle and unusual facts. Include pictures or photos.

Terrible Tetsuhau

Write a description in your own words of the grenade type weapon, the tetsuhau.

Choose two more weapons from battles of the past and write a brief description of them. Include illustrations with labels.

Deadly Dragon's Lair

Read page 54 and the description of the Dragon's Lair. Use paint, paper, recyclable materials and craft supplies to create a painting or picture of this scary lair.

Vicious Volcanoes

Napoleon is almost destroyed by lava from a volcano. Write an explanation about volcanoes and why they erupt. Include information about fissures, vents, lava and find out about a volcanic eruption from the past.

Princess Akinawa

Write your own account of the mystery surrounding Princess Akinawa and XBB005 (p58). Include what happens the first time they met as well as what happens in this battle.