

Lesson Description Format

Name: Matt Smith

Lesson: Breaking the Sacred Oaths of Bushido

7th Grade World History

Unit: Feudal Japan

Objectives:

1. Academic: I can describe two ways that some samurai broke their oaths of loyalty.
2. Social/Moral: General objective is to evaluate the obligation of keeping promises in contexts with competing obligations or personal needs.
 - a. I can evaluate which is more important: keeping promises, or preserving personal health and well-being.
 - b. I can evaluate which is more important: keeping promises, or taking care of close family members.

Lesson Summary:

In this lesson, students explore two ethical questions that faced samurai who failed to live up to the code of Bushido.

The class reads the example situation together and students write their responses. Students then do a “think-pair-share” with their responses.

The class then reads historical situation #1. Students write their responses individually, then also write their responses to the alternative scenarios.

After writing, the whole class engages in a transactive discussion using the following format:

- a. Student #1 states his perspective;
- b. Student #2 paraphrases Student #1, then provides a counter point;
- c. Student #3 paraphrases Student #2, then provides a counter point
- d. Student #4 summarizes the conversation, and may add his point of view.

The class follows a similar procedure with historical situation #2. However, students move into groups of four to complete a transactive discussion, using the same format as above.

Finally, students complete the exit slip individually.

Managing Learning Environment:

Students remain in their individual seats until the final transactive discussion, when they move into groups of four..

Instructional Materials:

Student handout is attached.