

# The Art and Craft of Tamahagane and Katanas

Tamahagane is a special type of steel made in Japan,/ used mainly to make traditional Japanese swords/ known as katanas.// Tamahagane is **crafted** from iron sand,/ which is heated in a special **furnace**/ called a tatara.// This careful process takes several days/ and **demand**s the skill of highly skilled **artisans**.// The iron sand is melted/ and mixed with charcoal /to make the steel.//

Katanas are **renowned** for their sharpness and **durability**.// They have a curved, single-edged blade/ and are often considered works of art.// The creation of a katana involves many steps,/ including **forging**, folding, and **polishing** the steel.// Each step requires great skill and care.// The blade is folded many times to create layers,/ making it very strong.//

Katanas are more than just weapons;/ they **embody** Japanese culture and history.// Samurai warriors used them for hundreds of years.// Today,/ katanas are **admired** all over the world/ for their beauty and **craftsmanship**.// **Possessing** a katana is like owning a piece of history.//

玉鋼（たまはがねとは、日本で作られた特殊な種類の鋼のことで、/ 主に伝統的な日本刀を作るのに使われる/ カタナとして知られる// 玉鋼は砂鉄から作られ、/ 特殊な炉で熱される/ たたらと呼ばれる// この慎重な作業は数日かかり / 熟練した職人の高等な技術が要求される// 砂鉄は溶され / 木炭と混ぜられる / 鋼鉄を作るために//

カタナはその切れ味と耐久性で知られている// それらは湾曲した片刃を持ち/ しばしば芸術品とみなされる// カタナの製造は多くの工程が絡んでいる / 鍛造、折り曲げ、鋼の研磨が含まれていて、// 一つひとつの工程は熟練と細心の注意が必要だ// 刃は層を作るために何度も折り曲げられ、/ それを非常に強くしている。//

カタナは単なる武器以上のものであり/ それらは日本の文化と歴史を体現している// 武士は何百年もそれを使ってきた// 今日、/ カタナは世界中で賞賛されている/ その美しさと職人技で// カタナを所有することは、歴史の一部を所有するようなものだ。//

## Vocabulary and Phrases

craft	手で、多くの技術で作る	forge	鍛える
furnace	炉	polish	磨く
demand	要求する	embody	体現する
artisan	職人	admire	賞賛する
renowned	有名な	craftsmanship	職人技
durability	耐久性	possess	所有する

## Total Number of words used

: 164 words

## Time for 100 wpm

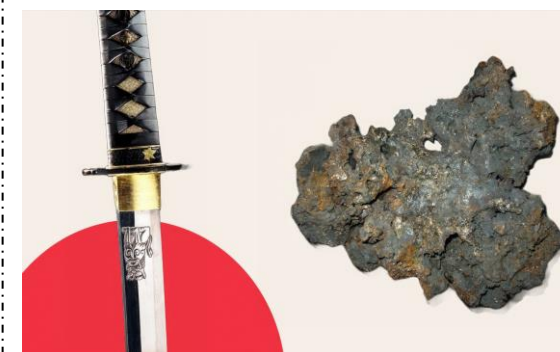
: 98.4 sec.

## Time for 120 wpm

: 82 sec.

## Your BEST TIME

: \_\_\_\_\_ sec.



**【Listen & Fill Blank】**

Tamahagane is a special type of steel made in Japan, used mainly to make \_\_\_\_\_ Japanese swords known as katanas. Tamahagane is \_\_\_\_\_ from iron sand, which is heated in a special \_\_\_\_\_ called a tatara. This careful process takes several days and \_\_\_\_\_ the skill of \_\_\_\_\_. The iron sand is \_\_\_\_\_ and mixed with charcoal to make the steel.

Katanas are \_\_\_\_\_ for their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. They have a curved, \_\_\_\_\_ and are often considered works of art. The creation of a katana involves many steps, including \_\_\_\_\_, folding, and \_\_\_\_\_ the steel. Each step requires great skill and care. The blade is folded many times to create layers, making it very strong and \_\_\_\_\_.

Katanas are more than just weapons; they \_\_\_\_\_ Japanese culture and history. Samurai warriors used them for hundreds of years. Today, katanas are \_\_\_\_\_ all over the world for their beauty and \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ a katana is like owning a piece of history.

**【Q&A / A&Q】**

**Question 1:** How is tamahagane made?

**Question 2:** What are katanas famous for?

**Question 3:** Why are katanas admired globally?

**Ask 1:** Tamahagane についての質問を英語で書いてください。

**Ask 2:** Katana についての質問を英語で書いてください。

**Ask 3:** 本文について知りたいことを英語で書いてください。

**Sample Answer 1:** Tamahagane is made from iron sand, which is melted and mixed with charcoal in a furnace called tatara for several days.

**Sample Answer 2:** Katanas are known for their sharpness and durability.

**Sample Answer 3:** Katanas are admired worldwide for their beauty and craftsmanship.

**Sample Question 1:** How did tamahagane get its name?

What is the ratio of iron sand and charcoal needed to craft tamahagane?

**Sample Question 2:** How long does it take to make a katana?

How much does a katana cost?

**Sample Question 3:** Can we use tamahagane to make products other than katanas?

Are katanas still being used these days?