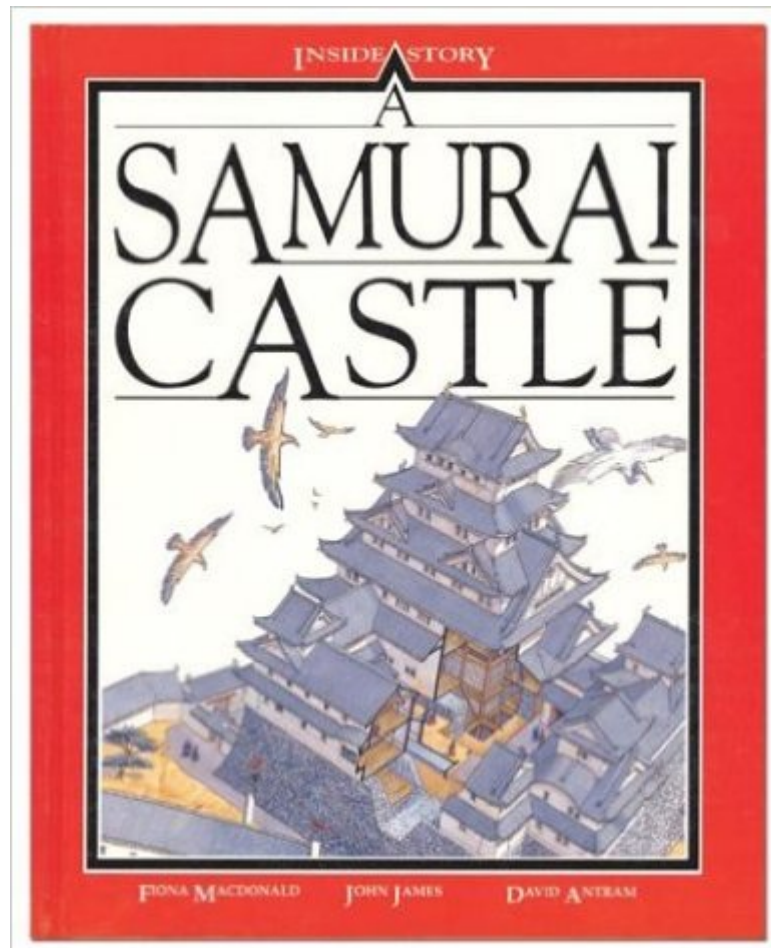


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# A Samurai Castle (Inside Story)



## Synopsis

Who were the Samurais and what was life like in their castles? Inside Story: Samurai Castle answers these questions and more through beautiful illustrations and thoroughly researched information. This book will take you inside a Samurai castle to learn about the Samurai way of life, the different kinds of people who lived and worked in Samurai castles, how these castles were built, how they were defended, and more.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Brighter Child; 1st edition (February 9, 2001)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 0.4 x 11.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #896,657 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #122 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Asia](#) #187 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Architecture](#)

Grade Level: 5 - 12

## Customer Reviews

"A Samurai Castle" looks at the history of the samurai castles of medieval Japan, not only in terms of diagramming the layout of these castles but also in terms of the examining the role of samurai, the shogun, and women in feudal Japanese society. Fiona MacDonald looks at everything that made up this society, from the religious beliefs to the arms and armor of the period. In the late Sixties I visited just such a castle in Tokyo, but of course I had no appreciation for it beyond noticing that they are built up on tall stone foundations (which had aesthetic and symbolic significance). This book begins with the idea of how sites were selected for building these castles along with how they were designed and constructed. The book is illustrated by David Antram and John James, with pictures not only of these castles but the people that worked and lived inside them in feudal Japan. Actually, this book places as much emphasis on the samurai as it does on their castle, covering how they trained, their arms and armor, and what they did during a normal day of service to their lord. The roles of women and what these people did for entertainment are covered as well.

Consequently, I was a bit disappointed that there were not more details on the actual castles, although there was a section near the end on how the samurai laid siege to these castles. But this is rather consistent with the format of this series. "A Samurai Castle" is one of over a dozen books from the Inside Story series that diagram ancient structures such as an Egyptian Pyramid, a Roman Fort, and a Medieval Cathedral to more recent structures such as a frontier fort on the Oregon Trail and a World War II submarine. Obviously what is nice about these volumes is that they present young readers with the idea of form and function in a way that is both creative and educational.

The "Inside Story" series is one of the best historical, non-fiction series ever produced. The aim of this series is to teach history by using building construction as a framework to tell a larger story. The series editors matched some of the best children's history writers with the very best historical illustrators. I loved the first few books so much that I ended up purchasing the entire series. Like all the other volumes in the series, "A Samurai Castle" is a success. In Sixteenth Century, a Samurai castle was at the apex of Japanese technology. Thousands of workers from all classes of Japanese society came together to construct these technological wonders. Once constructed, hundreds more worked and lived in the castle. "A Samurai Castle" carefully documents the construction techniques and the social relationships that revolved around the castle. What really makes this book work are the beautifully rendered illustrations of David Antrum and John James. They are two of the best illustrators working in children's literature. This is a beautiful book that will be enjoyed by both parents and children alike. Highly recommended.

This is a great book for kids and adults alike. It has wonderful artwork that depicts period clothing and settings. Even some good general information. If my children were interested in samurai's, I'd buy it for them.

I purchased this book for a novel I am writing. The children's format with clear illustrations has been very helpful. The book arrived in good condition.

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