

## Super Ninja #1: Hattori Hanzō

Japan's most famous ninja was born around 1542 in Iga province which is historically the centre of most ninja activity.

Hanzō was known as a superhuman ninja master of the art of invisibility. There are many amazing tales told about him. It is said that he could sit behind a hand-held fan, bow, and then suddenly disappear, only to reappear in the next room.

Hanzō was an extremely skilled swordsman, tactician and spearman. He began training at the age of eight, and became a full-fledged ninja at age twelve. He fought in his first battle when he was sixteen and was known as a master ninja at age eighteen.

He is credited with saving the life of the future shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu and the Kōkyō Imperial Palace has a gate called Hanzō's Gate.

He died in about 1596, at the age of 55, of natural causes. He is buried in the Sainen-ji temple cemetery in Shinjuku Tokyo. The temple also holds one of his spears and a ceremonial battle helmet.



## The White Crane

The White Crane is a large wading bird. It has pure white body feathers, a brownish red beak, and its feet are light flesh pink.



The White Crane usually breeds in May or June laying two eggs per nest. Male and female birds take turns to hatch the eggs, and brooding time lasts about 30 days. A young crane can fly 85 days after its birth.

One of the most famous origami paper models is the paper crane, also called the Peace Crane. In Japan, there is a belief that if you fold 1000 paper cranes (known as Senbazuru), your wish comes true.



The crane is a symbol of peace and longevity in Oriental culture and is often depicted in traditional paintings and statues.

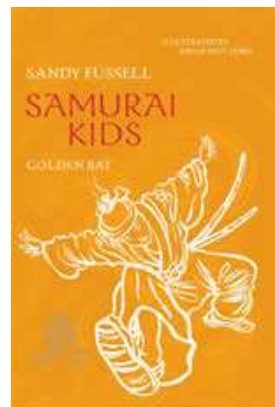
In the Samurai Kids Book 1, Niya, the one-legged Samurai boy who tells the story has the spirit of the White Crane to help him.

## Golden Bat :Samurai Kids Book 6

The sixth book in the Samurai Kids series was released in May 2011. Golden Bat is set on the island of Jeju at the tip of South Korea.

Mikko has been kidnapped by pirates led by the fearsome captain Dreaded Oong. Sensei and the Samurai Kids must rescue Dreaded Oong's nephew from the County Magistrate's prison in return for Mikko's life.

Along the way Taji has to make a difficult decision about whether to take the risk to see again.



## Cheju (Jeju Island) - Korea

Jeju Island is the setting for Golden Bat, back in the 1600's when it was known as Cheju Island. Jeju Island is an inactive shield volcano. The island and its spectacular lava tube caves are World Heritage listed.



These are horizontal caves where once molten magma flowed. The Geomunoreum lava tube system is regarded as the finest in the world.

For more information visit the UNESCO World Heritage web site <http://whc.unesco.org/sites/en/list/1264>

## Sandwich Sushi (Ham or Salmon)

A healthy lunchbox treat

### Ingredients

- 8 slices bread, crusts removed
- 310g can creamed corn
- 4 large thin slices double smoked ham
- 200g can salmon in oil, drained, flaked
- 1 small carrot, peeled, grated
- 1 small Lebanese cucumber, peeled, cut into long strips
- 200g can salmon in oil, drained, flaked
- 2 tablespoons whole-egg mayonnaise
- 2 to 3 shredded lettuce leaves
- 1 small avocado, cut into long strips

### Method

1. Place bread onto a flat surface. Use a rolling pin to flatten slightly. Spread corn over 4 slices, leaving a 2cm strip free of filling along 1 edge. Top with ham, carrot and cucumber. Roll up to enclose filling. Cut each sandwich into 3 rounds.
2. Place salmon and mayonnaise into a bowl. Mix gently to combine. Arrange lettuce over remaining 4 slices of bread, leaving a 2cm strip free of filling along 1 edge. Top with salmon mixture and avocado. Roll up to enclose filling. Cut each sandwich into 3 rounds.

Wrap all sandwiches in plastic wrap. Store in the fridge until ready to pack into lunch boxes.



## What is ... Seppuku

Seppuku is a form of Japanese ritual suicide by disembowelment. Seppuku was originally reserved only for samurai.

Part of the samurai honour code, seppuku has been used voluntarily by samurai to die with honour rather than fall into the hands of their enemies, as a form of capital punishment for samurai who have committed serious offences, and to erase personal shame.

Seppuku is performed by plunging a sword into the abdomen and moving the sword left to right in a slicing motion. A second samurai would stand by to cut off his friend's head and prevent further suffering. Seppuku is no longer legal in Japan.