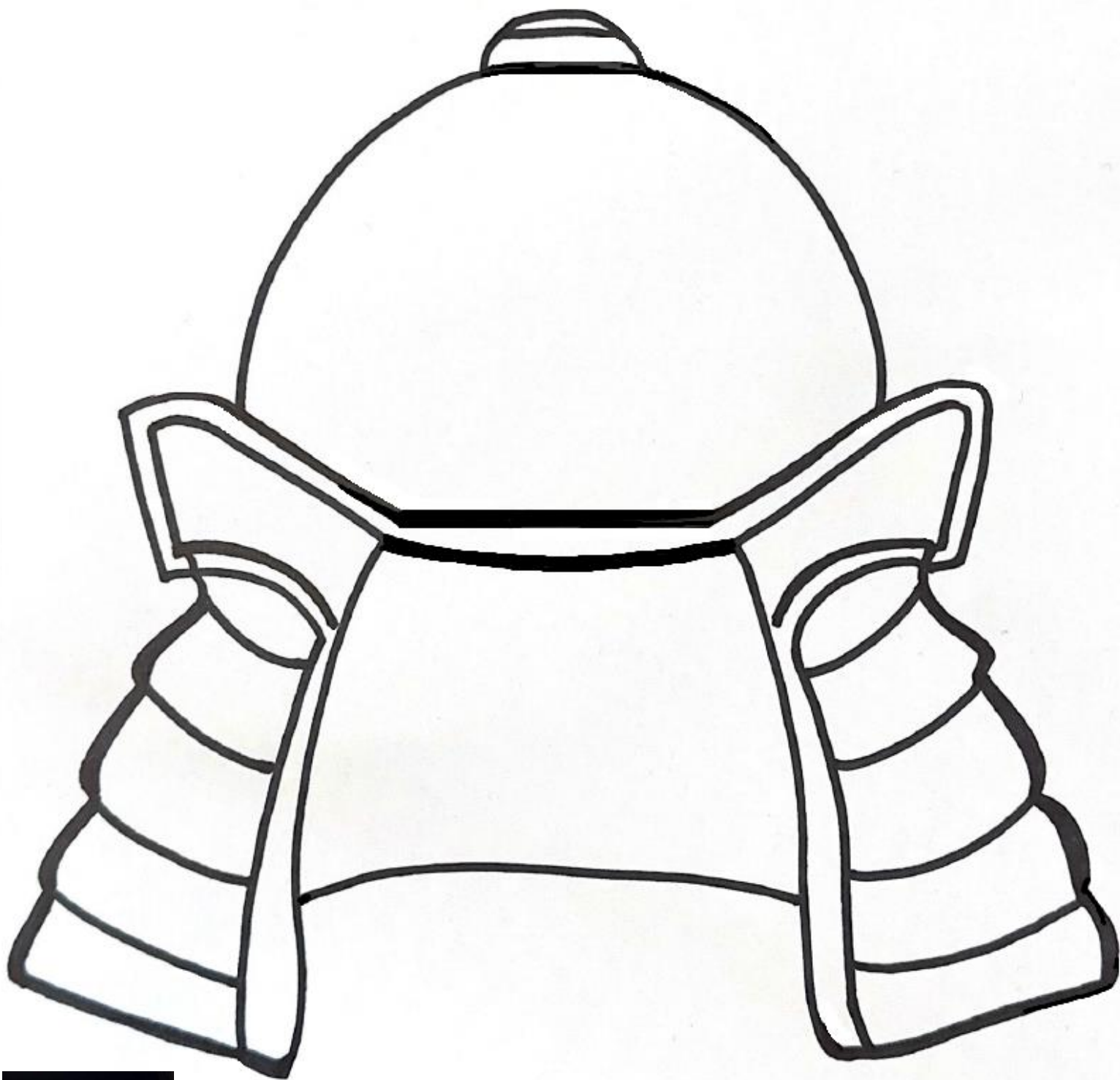


SAMURAI HELMET TEMPLATE

Art Making Activity: *Design a Samurai Helmet*



Be Inspired!

鉄錆地半月後立形兜 江戸時代, *Elaborately Shaped Helmet (kawari kabuto)*, Japan, 17th century, Iron, lacing, lacquer, *shakudō*, bronze, gold, and fur

Look closely at the front of this helmet- do you see anything that stands out? There are nine twisted bamboo leaves that come together at a point and would spin in a breeze like a pinwheel. The back of the helmet has a shape you might recognize – a crescent moon! The crescent moon in Japan represents educational growth since the crescent moon will eventually grow to a full moon which represent wisdom and knowledge. There are two flowers, or cherry blossoms, on either side of the helmet. Cherry blossoms are an important symbol in Japan that promises new life in the Spring.