



SAKURA

What is Sakura?

The national flower of Japan, the **cherry blossom** – or **Sakura**, **represents** a time of renewal and optimism.

If you are a Washingtonian, you are definitely familiar with the **Cherry Blossom Festival** celebrated every spring!
Do you know how it came to be and what it represents?

Read about it here: <https://nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/about-us/#History>

And here : <https://wtop.com/national-cherry-blossom-festival/2018/03/cherry-blossoms-history/>

Then complete this worksheet on the following page.

DIRECTIONS:

Answer the following questions about the cherry trees of Washington, D.C.

1. Who first suggested planting cherry trees along the **Potomac waterfront**?
2. Who was **Dr. Takamine**?
3. Why did the **Department of Agriculture** destroy the first 2,000 cherry trees sent from Japan?
4. When was the first **Cherry Blossom Festival** held? What do you think it **symbolizes**?
5. Which memorial was dedicated in 1997 and is located along **Cherry Tree Walk**?
6. Which tasks are regularly performed by the **National Park Service** to care for the cherry trees?

Adapted from Education World : https://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/TM/WS_lp257-01.shtml



SAKURA is also a song.
It is a traditional **Japanese**
folk song depicting spring,
the season of **cherry**
blossoms.

**Here is the link for the lyrics
in Japanese and English!**

[Sakura, Sakura Lyrics - Kid Song Lyrics - KidSongs.com](#)

HERE ARE SOME OF MANY WAYS TO PERFORM SAKURA

KOTO (Japanese String instrument) : https://youtu.be/JDTp_YQizqE

VOCAL AND SINGING BOWLS: <https://youtu.be/AOJnEt391nU>

UKULELE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEVeVyXvosM>

VIOLIN: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ajMoAfn8Xs>

DO - Listen to the four versions and compare them!



After you listen and compare the versions of the song ...

THINK and DO

- ★ Which one you do like best? Why?
- ★ Can you create your own version?
 - Decide how.
 - Will you sing it?
 - Will you play it on an instrument you already know how to play ?
 - Learn to sing and play, and then, share it with us !

Music to play for string players is on the following slides.

Music for Violin, Viola and Cello

This version is in a Key that is most suitable for a beginner.

It uses the familiar sharp second finger placement.

<https://www.noteflight.com/scores/view/0aa6720dcd2b3b18c804cd477dcca88b4b57f09d>

Instructional video is coming!

This version is very easy to learn because it starts on the open A string.

However, it uses the low 2nd finger placement, (*3rd for cellos*) which might be new to some beginners.

<https://www.noteflight.com/scores/view/1e6e4ff1c5fa039253b8a6c044bf403752455cdf>

Instructional video is coming!



Visual art activity

If you take **Visual Art** at Fillmore, you probably have already created some artworks related to **Cherry Blossoms**.

Here, I have a new twist for you. Excited? I hope so! :)

For this project you will learn about, and use,
the concept of

THE 5 ELEMENTS



What is 5 elements theory?

Five Elements is a theory used to describe interactions and relationships between things.

1. EARTH
2. FIRE
3. WIND or AIR
4. WATER
5. SPACE or SPIRIT

The **Five Elements** are believed to be the fundamental elements of everything in the universe between which interactions occur, including world weather, our feelings and personalities.

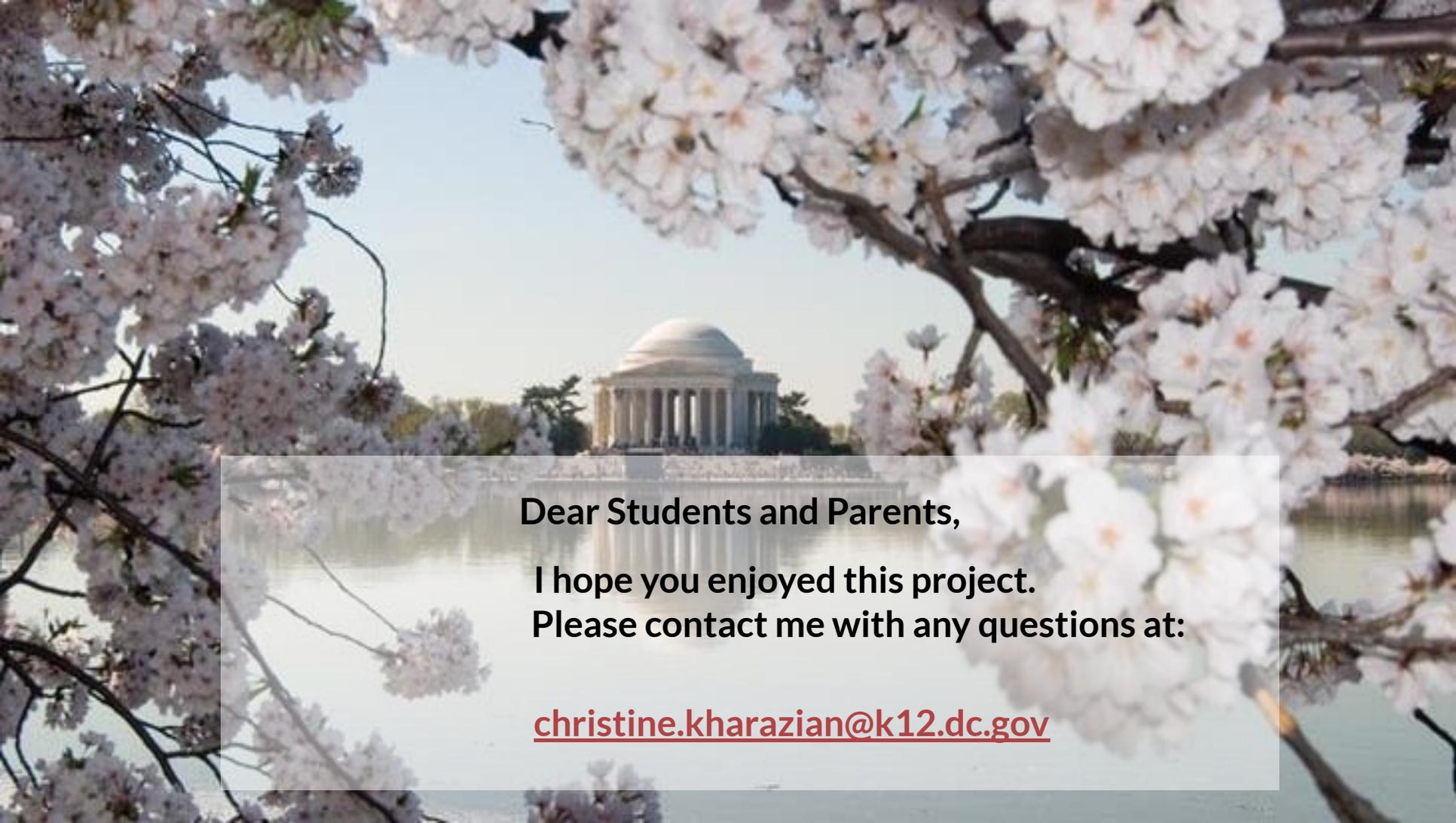
While these elements are most known for being represented in Asian cultures, the concept is certainly one that many cultures have explored and some continue to explore.

Instructions for the Project

Project

CREATE an **artwork** inspired by everything you learned about **Sakura**.

- Think of 5 elements and pick a color for each element.
 - Think creatively! Earth can be brown, though, is it always brown?
 - What if it has grass on it or stone or moss?
 - What if it's wet or dry?
 - What is a color of the wind?
 - What is a color of space or spirit? Maybe it's just your favorite color.
- Please pick **only 5 colors** and create your artwork.
- While you are creating listen to your favorite version of the song.
- SHARE with us!
 - Email to christine.kharazian@k12.dc.gov
 - Or, post on our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/Fillmore-Arts-Center-a-DCPS-Arts-Elementary-School-287195041413234/>



Dear Students and Parents,

I hope you enjoyed this project.

Please contact me with any questions at:

christine.kharazian@k12.dc.gov