



ALBUM [CHERRY BLOSSOMS: FRIENDS AND FOES](#)

Album Description

As we approach the blooming of the cherry blossoms in DC, I thought it may be interesting to do some research and share my findings. A gift from Japan, the cherry blossoms were given as a symbol of friendship with the United States. Planted in and around the Thomas Jefferson memorial, the cherry blossom trees draw great attraction to the city of Washington, DC every spring.

I have always found it interesting that this grand and seemingly lasting gesture of friendship from Japan to US came less than 30 years before the bombing of Pearl Harbor and 33 years before the US dropped the first atomic bomb on Nagasaki. How can two nations go from showing extravagant public displays of friendship to the most extreme forms of violence? Something I didn't know, cherry blossoms "symbolize both birth and death, beauty and violence." Friends and enemies?

In terms of using this in your classroom, think about adding this information into lessons that cover WWII or the United States' foreign relations - how they change over time, motive behind certain actions, and how we can come to repair (or damage) already established relationships. [Here](#) is an interesting article from the National Park Services that gives a timeline and overview of the cherry blossoms coming to the United States (many of the pictures seen in this article come from the Library's collections. I have added many of them to this album for your convenience). The Library also has a wonderful [online exhibition](#) documenting the cherry blossoms and their symbol of friendship. The Library also have free to use and reuse resources if you're looking for some nice, copyright free photos: <https://www.loc.gov/free-to-use/cherry-blossoms/>.

In addition, here are some more posts about the DC cherry blossoms on the TPS Network: [Cherry Blossoms in DC](#), [Sakura: Cherry Blossom as Living Symbols of Friendship](#), [National Cherry Blossom Festival Centennial celebration of the gift of trees // Max](#).

Regardless of how the cherry blossoms came about, they are a stunning springtime occurrence here in DC; I can't wait to see them this week!

Comment below if you have any more insight into the cherry blossoms or Japan/USA foreign relations - I find it fascinating!

[cherry blossoms](#) [japan](#) [usa](#) [friendship](#) [trees](#) [wwII](#)



1992 NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL



CHERRY BLOSSOM PARTIES; SHINTO FESTIVALS, CITY [AND] COUNTRY



Reference Link: <http://www.loc.gov/item/2002719749/>

Summary: President William Howard Taft and Mrs. Taft seated in the back of a convertible automobile with the roof down.

Contributor Names: Clinedinst, Barnett McFee, 1862-1953, photographer

Created / Published: 1909.

Subject Headings: - Taft, William H.--(William Howard)--1857-1930

- Taft, Helen Herron--1861-1943

- Convertible automobiles--Washington (D.C.)--1900-1910

Notes: - H126606 U.S. Copyright Office.

- Copyright 1909, Clinedinst, Wash. D.C.

Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA

Digital Id: cph 3c32298 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3c32298



DOGWOOD 4

Teaching Notes:

The United States gifted Dogwood Trees back to Japan - the official flower and tree of North Carolina where I'm from!



Reference Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1925-04-05/ed-1/seq-92/#date1=1900&index=1&rows=20&words=blossoms+cherry&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=&date2=19>

Newspaper: Evening star. [volume] (Washington, D.C.) 1854-1972

Newspaper Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1925-04-05/ed-1/seq-92/#date1=1900&index=1&rows=2...>

Image provided by: Library of Congress, Washington, DC

PDF Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1925-04-05/ed-1/seq-92.pdf>



BLOG CHERRY BLOSSOMS, INSECTS, AND INSPECTIONS



Reference Link: <http://www.loc.gov/item/2016855390/>

Contributor Names: Harris & Ewing, photographer

Created / Published: [between 1910 and 1920]

Subject Headings: - United States--District of Columbia--Washington (D.C.)

Genre: Glass negatives

Notes: - Title from negative or negative sleeve.

- Date based on date of negatives in same range.

- Gift; Harris & Ewing, Inc. 1955.

- General information about the Harris & Ewing Collection is available at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.hec>

- Temp. note: Batch three.


Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print>

Digital Id: [hec 14236 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/hec.14236](http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/hec.14236)



Teaching Notes:

Interesting history  [Celia Roskin](#) and good lesson connection to alliances made and alliances broken!

I hope to visit the Blossom spectacle in Washington DC someday. In the meantime I'll just keep visiting the [Free to Use and Reuse: Cherry Blossoms](#) set in the Library of Congress. :)

Cherry Blossoms

<https://www.loc.gov/resource/highsm.15040/?r=-0.481,-0.214,1.979,1.264,0>



Teaching Notes:

You just took me back 30+ years! That is how long ago my wife and I took our wedding photos under a Cherry Blossom tree in New Jersey. Later we got to enjoy the Cherry Blossom festival in Tokyo, Japan when I was stationed there in the US Air Force.

I will definitely use this in my upcoming lesson on World War II...thank you!



Teaching Notes:

What a nice memory, Robert! Thanks for sharing :)



Teaching Notes:

There are 3 wonderful online webinars in April celebrating Cherry Blossoms at 110.

Object Lesson Series: Celebrating the 110th Anniversary of the Cherry Blossom Gift and U.S.-Japan Friendship

Wednesday through Friday, April 6-8, 7 to 8 p.m.

Virtual event

Descriptions and registration links here:

<https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-22-016/springtime-traditions-on-display-with-national-cherry-blossom-festival-events-at-the-library/2022-03-01/>



Teaching Notes:

Added this album to this [Today in History: Cherry Blossoms resource set](#).