

BLOOM! TEACHER RESOURCE TOOLBOX

Notes from founder, artistic creative director, Linda Poole

BLOOM! presents opportunity for creativity and learning for students of all ages to bloom and grow while enlivening a sense of curiosity for the cherry blossom. And to find beauty every day!

I would like to present some ideas to accompany our BLOOM! video which has four distinct segments:

1. Cherry blossom culture, history and traditions, Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival background and ways to engage in programming, about Vancouver's cherry trees.
2. The Botany of the Cherry Tree (8:24)
3. Sakura memories of Japan (22:42)
4. How to write haiku (28:48)

IN ADVANCE OF VIDEO VIEWING

I recommend taking the class on a **Sensory Awareness Walk** (s) and to get students in a mindful mindset before heading outside use exercises such as these and make them your own ~

<https://positivepsychology.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Five-Senses-Worksheet.pdf>

Also, before for the walk discuss "what is beauty". Beauty is subjective and comes from within you, a quality in something or someone that pleases your senses. It is that moment when you are stopped in your tracks and experience awe, wonder and joy. It is an experience into which one must enter (as cited by Kate Porter "Life in Beauty")

While out in nature on your Sensory Awareness Walk get students to record their discoveries (haiku seeds) of Spring and Beauty to reference later for the writing of their haiku. Back in the classroom discuss how the findings that interested them the most made them feel. It would be wonderful to develop a daily practise of finding beauty in every day so students realize what a beautiful world they live in.

Over time do Sensory Awareness Walks spark an appreciation for their surroundings?

ENGAGE IN VANCOUVER CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL 2021 PROGRAMS

Haiku Invitational

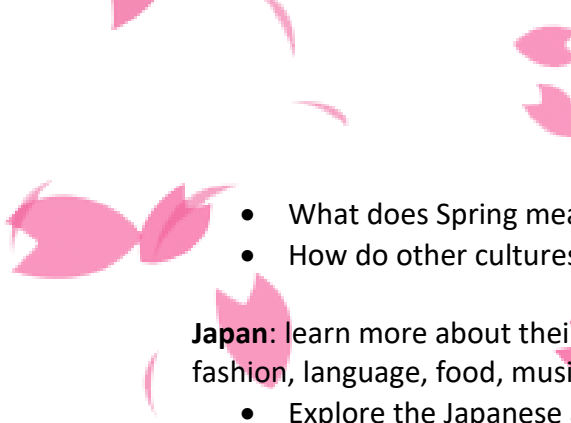
BC Blossom Photo Watch

Soundwalk Dance with headphones or Boom Box

In Full Bloom Drone Film by Patrick Weir (about 12 minutes)

BLOOM! SPARKS DISCUSSION ON SUCH THEMES AS:

Spring: self-discovery of signs of Spring, Spring themes of rebirth, renewal, new beginnings, and celebrating the change of season.

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- What does Spring mean to you?
 - How do other cultures celebrate Spring?

Japan: learn more about their Spring traditions and customs, their traditional dress, today's fashion, language, food, music, and decoration.

- Explore the Japanese aesthetic.
- Can you find signs of Japan in your city architecture, fashion, food, etc.?
- How are we different from Japan and the Japanese and how are we similar? Why is it important to learn about other cultures?
- Build on the Tree Spirit Fairy legend mentioned in the video and write your own story of why the cherry blossoms are so exquisite.
- Learn the geography of Japan and where Okinawa is located within their archipelago

Beauty: Create beauty with an art project, decorate your classroom, school, home with cherry blossoms, flowers, and your creativity!

- Describe your moment of awe with the beauty of the cherry blossoms this spring in a story, haiku or share in conversation with a classmate.
- Conscious acts of beauty engaging others in the experience.
- How many different cherry cultivars or varieties can you find in your neighborhood? (Reference vcbf.ca - Education - Cherry Cultivars)
- Word Tennis Exercise: In pairs stand opposite at a safe distance from each other taking turns without repeating a word to describe cherry blossoms and how they make you feel.
- Now I walk in Beauty (song lyrics available on page #)

Friendship: what does “there is no stranger under the cherry tree” mean to you?

- Make a new friend.
- Celebrate a current friend


Celebration: How would you like to celebrate with the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival and honoring cherry blossoms near your school and in your neighborhood?

- Dress-up for this happy occasion: in pink, Japanese yukata, etc.! Remember if you are dressing for your outdoor hanami or O’hanami (flower viewing picnic) to dress warmly for the cool weather.

Inspiration: Where do you get your inspiration from? What inspires you?

- Learn what inspired another founder of an organization or business that interests you.

Relaxation: calming a busy stressful time/a busy mind through just slowing down your movements and slowing down your breath and being in nature, which could lead to a study of meditation and mindfulness.



Cherry Blossom Etiquette:

The flower petals of the cherry tree are extremely fragile so breaking, bending branches touching petals, plucking flowers is unacceptable. Do not shake the branches to see petals fall; wait until it happens naturally. Do not intentionally stand or bike over the roots of the cherry.

FEEDBACK We look forward to hearing about your BLOOM! experience in whatever form that might take. EMAIL: info@vcbf.ca

Now I Walk in Beauty

Slow ♩ = 52

Navajo Prayer
(sung as a round)

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has two parts, labeled 1 and 2. Part 1 starts with a treble clef and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The lyrics are: "Now I walk in beau - ty,". Part 2 starts with a bass clef and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is: G2 (quarter), F2 (quarter), E2 (quarter), D2 (quarter), C2 (half). The lyrics are: "Beau - ty is be - fore__ me,". The second system has two parts, labeled 3 and 4. Part 3 starts with a treble clef and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The lyrics are: "Beau - ty is be - hind__ me, a - bove__ and be - low me." Part 4 starts with a bass clef and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is: G2 (quarter), F2 (quarter), E2 (quarter), D2 (quarter), C2 (half). The lyrics are: "Beau - ty is be - hind__ me, a - bove__ and be - low me."

Now I Walk in Beauty (Lyrics)

Now I walk in beauty,
Beauty is before me,
Beauty is behind me,
Above and below me.



Cherry Blossoms For You & Me

Words and Music by Tom Landa and Robin Layne

Verse 1

Wake, wake up, wake up, the sun is shining today.
Winter is gone and spring is here, welcome in the new day.

Our city is blooming pink and white, it's such a beautiful sight.
Meet me here under the blossom tree, next to the mountains and the sea.

Chorus

Woah oh oh oh. Woah oh oh.
Cherry Blossoms, for you and me.

Verse 2


Look up, look up, look up, flowers all around us.
So rise up, rise up, rise up. Help me sing this chorus.
Meet me here under the cherry tree,
With friends and family.
Take in the beauty of it's bloom,
A fleeting moment gone too soon.

Chorus

Cherry Blossoms, peaceful and free.
Cherry Blossoms, for you and me.

Verse 3

And our city is blooming pink and white, such a beautiful sight.
Meet me here under the cherry tree, come Celebrate with me.



Books:

Note: some books may not be free but may be available through VPL.

- [Ornamental Cherries in Vancouver by Douglas Justice \(VCBF\)](#)
- [Man, Who Planted Trees by Frédéric Back \(video\)](#)
- [Sakura's Cherry Blossoms by Weston, Robert Paul \(video\)](#)
- [Obasan by Joy Kogawa](#)
- [Naomi's Tree by Joy Kogawa](#)
- [Life in Beauty by Kate Porter](#)
- [Japanese Celebration by Betty Reynolds](#)
- [The Cherry Blossom Festival Sakura Celebration by Ann McClellan](#)

Find Beauty...

