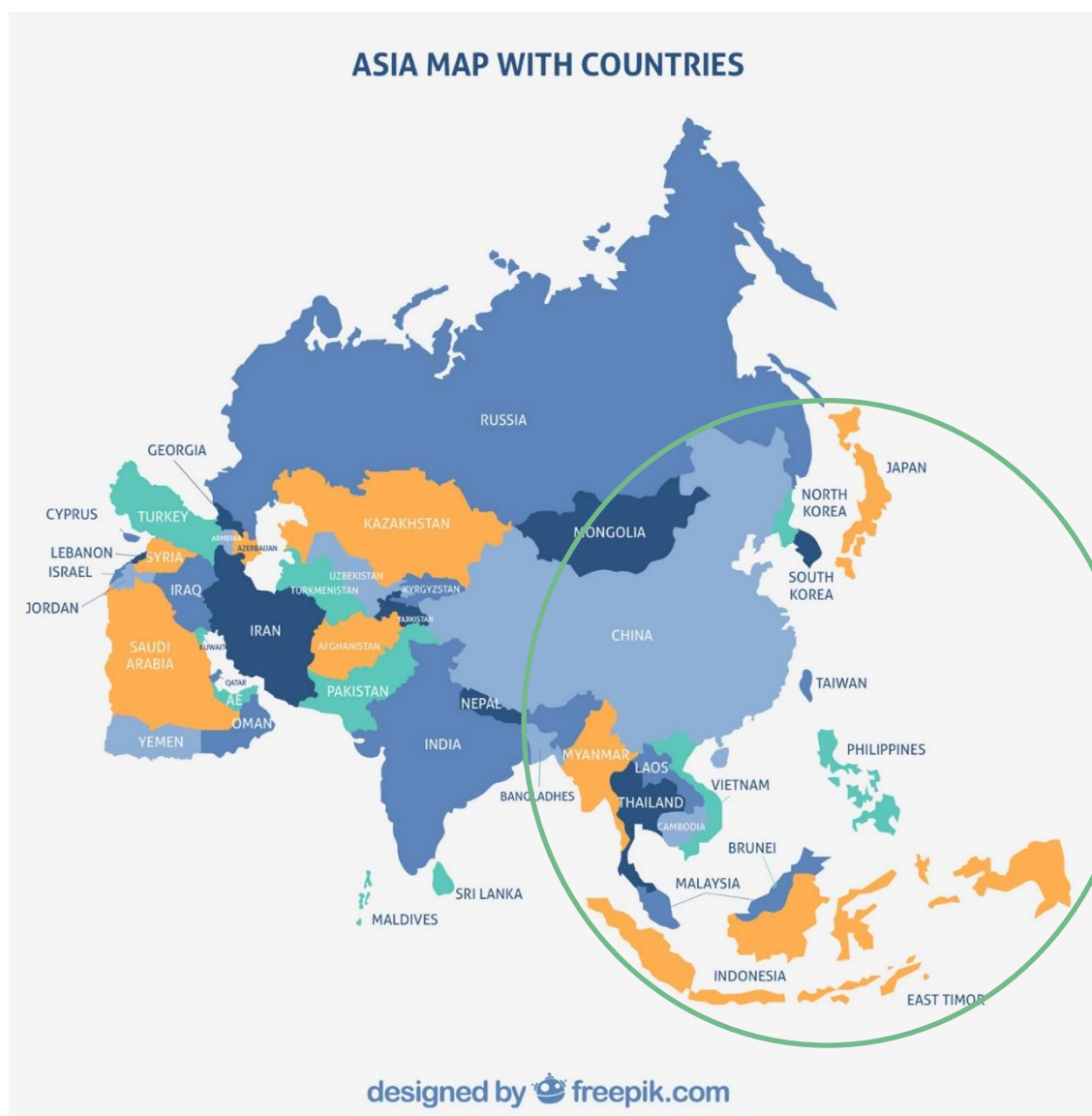


APRIL RESOURCES & ACTIVITIES

These activities have been selected to enjoy the springtime while learning about Japan - and other East Asian regions - and the Museum collection. Please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing learning@meaa.org.uk if you have any questions or you want to send us pictures of your work.

Disclaimer: This document contains links to YouTube videos and external website links selected by the Museum team. The Museum of East Asian Art is not responsible for the content, accessibility, or privacy policies of external websites. The inclusion of a link to an external website from our website or downloadable materials does not entail an endorsement of that website, its owners, products or services. We also advise to have the necessary parental controls in place. *Find links in green*

Which regions are in East and South East Asia? Look inside the circle!



THE MUSEUM OF
EAST
ASIAN ART

Spring Activities: Blossoms all Around

In Japan during springtime a famous festival called Hanami takes place. Hanami can be translated as flower viewing because from March until May Japanese people go to parks with their family and friends and gather under trees in bloom. They especially enjoy the Cherry blossoms (*Sakura*), but also Plum (*Ume*) and Peach (*Momo*) trees. In Korea and China they also celebrate the blossoming of trees with festivals such as the Yeouido Spring Festival or the Wuhan University Cherry Flower Festival.



South Korea

Photo by Ran Ma on Unsplash



Japan

Photo by Yu Kato on Unsplash



China

Photo by Linda Yuan on Unsplash

Read and be Inspired

Read about the Hanami Festival on [this link](#) and have fun with the activities and challenges.

Challenge: Can you look at these flowers and guess which one is a plum, a peach or a cherry blossom? Click [here](#) and you will access information that will help you to find the right answer. Make sure grownups are around to help. See results at the end of this document.

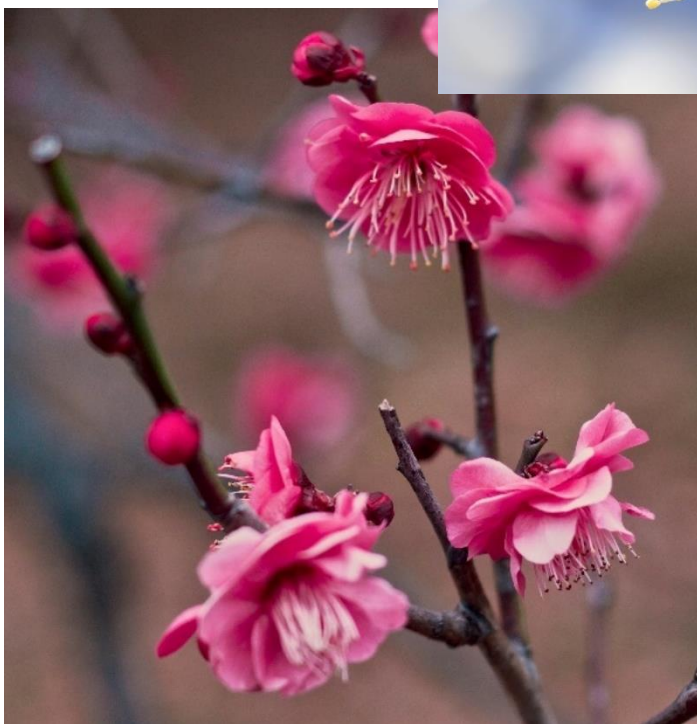
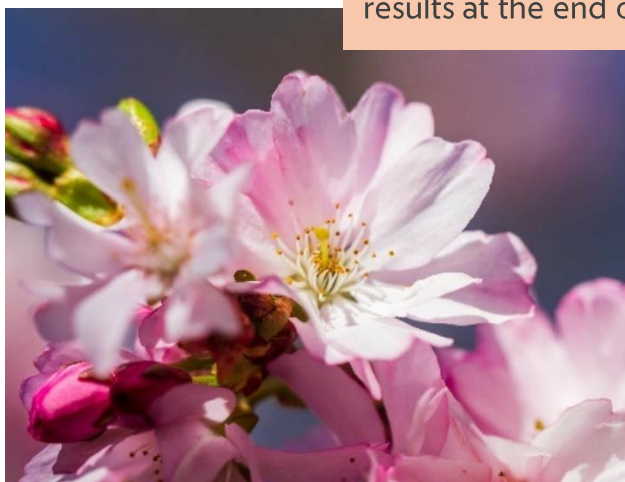


Photo by Jelleke Vanooteghem on Unsplash

Write and Explore

Japanese – and also Chinese - characters are formed by strokes combined in different ways. Characters are written following the same order – left to right and top to bottom

桜 (*Sakura, Cherry*)

桃 (*Momo, Peach*)

梅 (*Ume, Plum*)

Challenge: Can you try to write the name of these flowers in *kanji* (Japanese characters)? Click on the characters in green and you will access instructions on how to write them.

If you can print at home, download a blank character writing template [here](#), perfect to practice kanji writing.



Explore: Click on the image and discover this and other objects from our collections with flowers. You will see they are not only Japanese. This plate, for instance, was made in China.

Write

A *haiku*, like the example below, is a type of very short traditional poem. It consists of three sentences of around 17 syllables.

“What a strange thing!
to be alive
beneath cherry blossoms.”
— Kobayashi Issa, [Poems](#)

Traditionally they are observations of scenes based on nature and/or seasons written in a simple and beautiful way. See more examples of *haiku* [here](#).

Challenge: Can you write a haiku?



Write your own haiku inspired by the landscape on this **Japanese bowl** from our collection. Click on the image to see a bigger version of this picture. The flowers are peonies and the animal is a legendary creature called *Shisa* or *Komainu*.

Watch

[Short Film of Hanami Festival in Japan](#)

[Sakura Cherry Blossom Story: A book story reading](#)

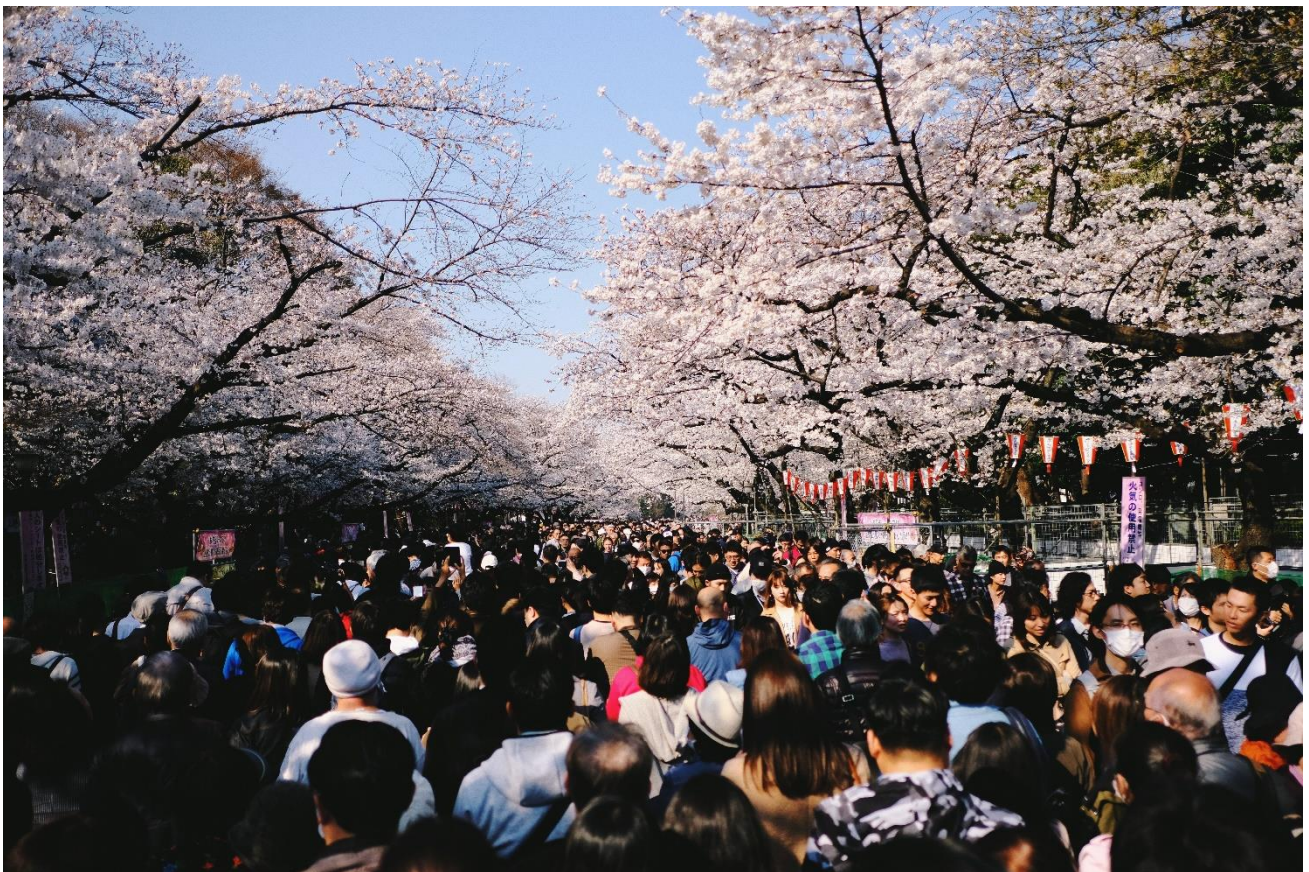
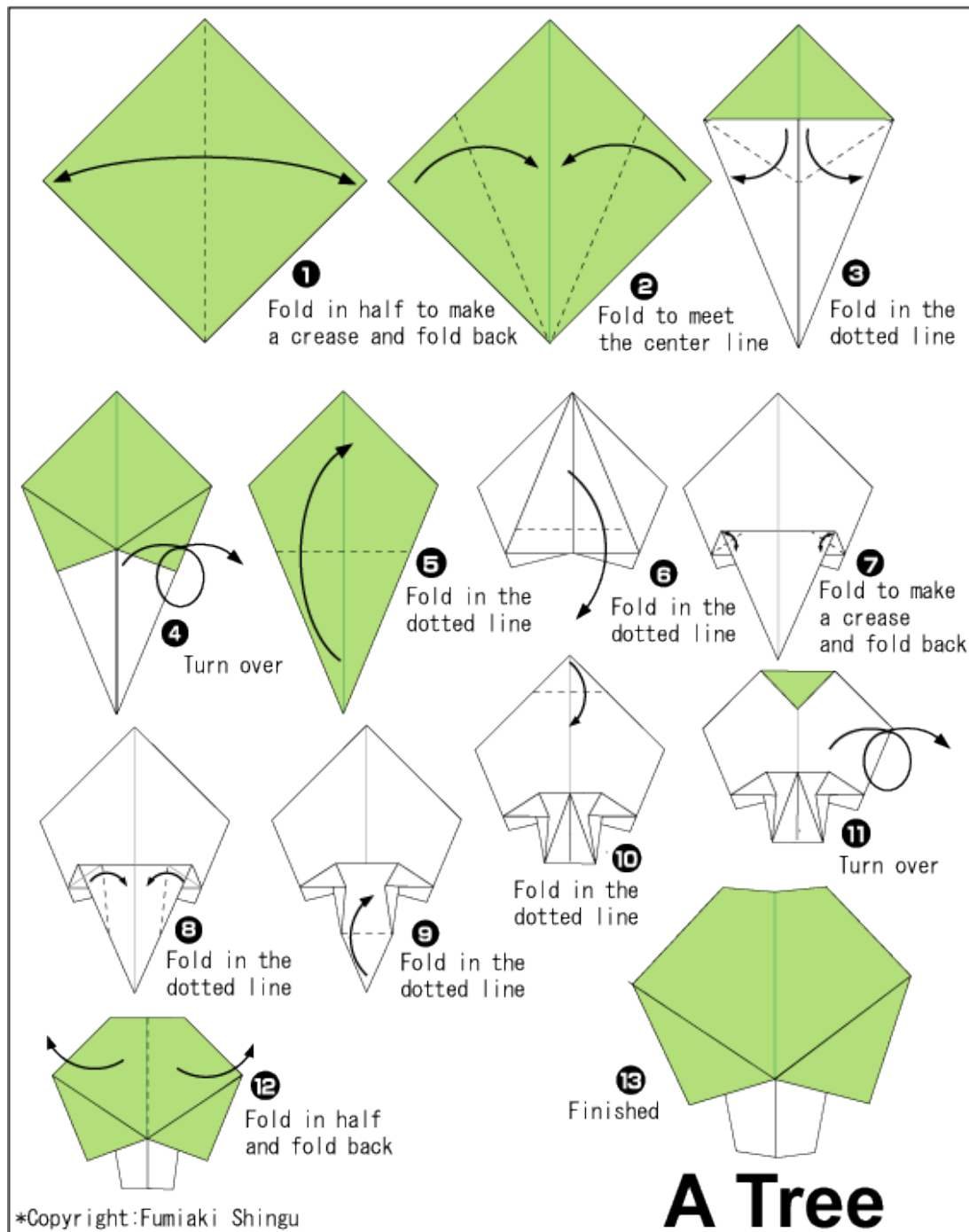


Photo by Trevor Paxton on Unsplash

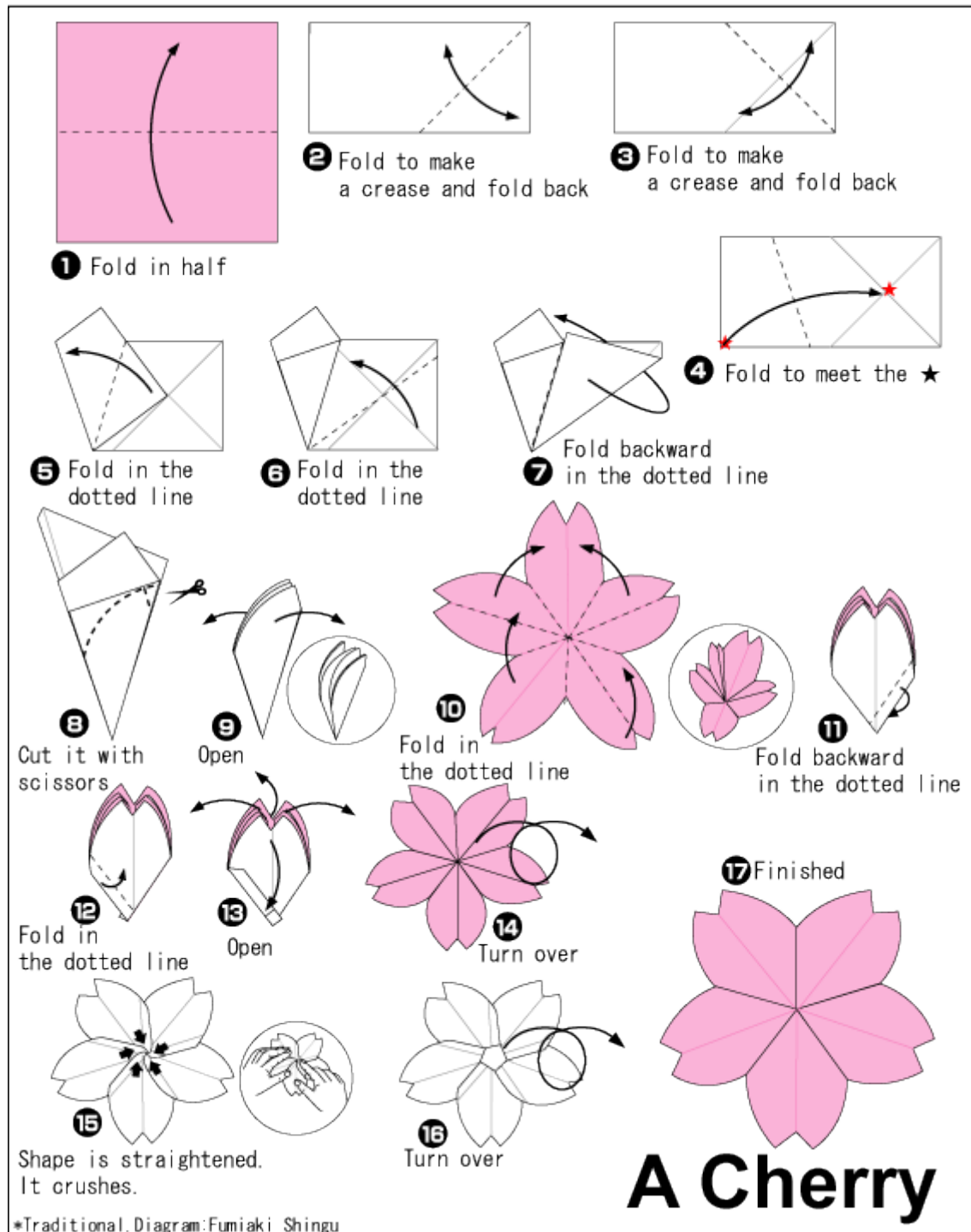
Make

Try the ancient art of Japanese folding paper, known as origami, to make your trees and blossoms. To do this at home use a thin and square piece of coloured paper, a 15cmx15cm size is the standard.

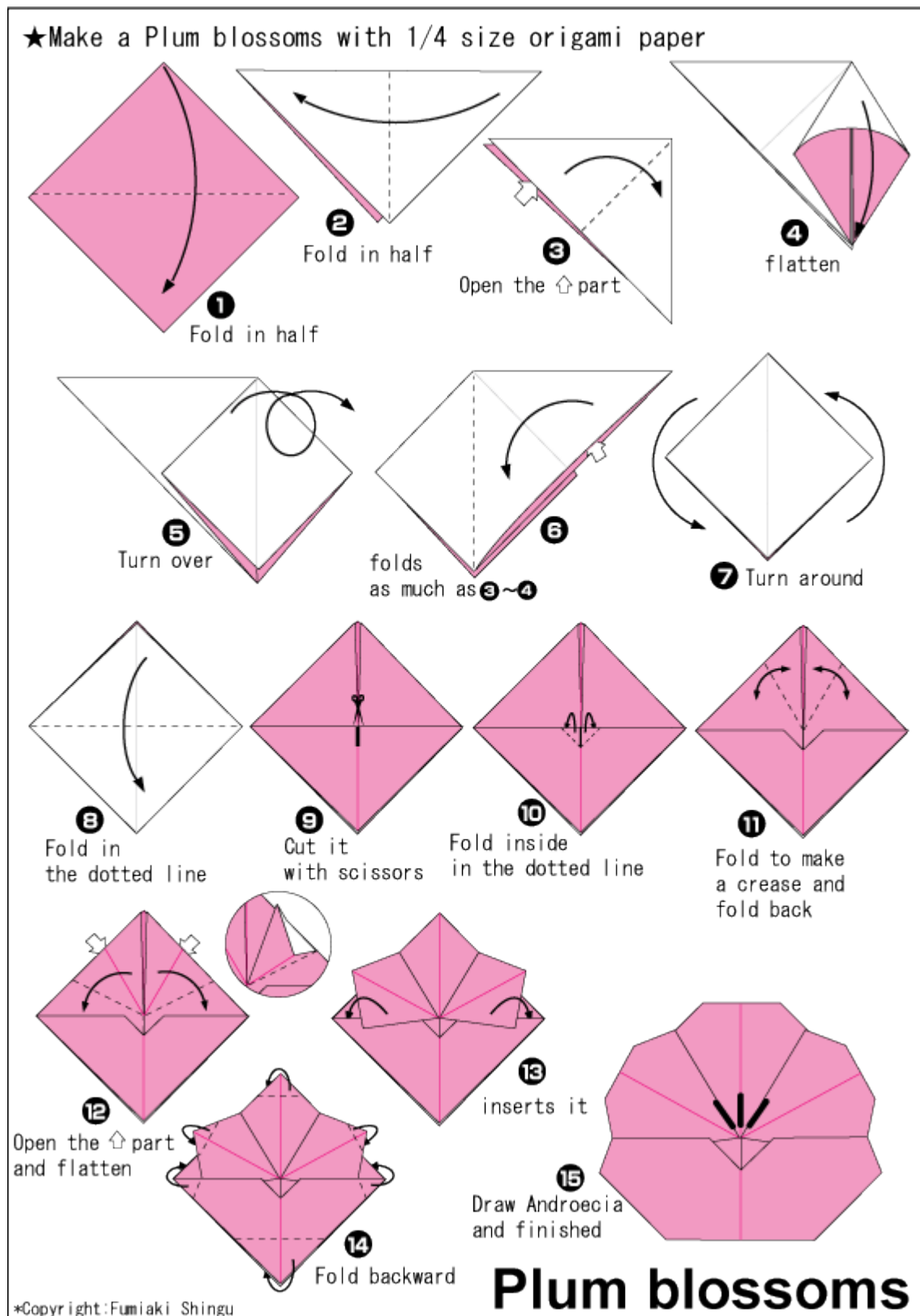
Tree (Easy)



Cherry Tree (Intermediate)



Plum Tree (Intermediate)



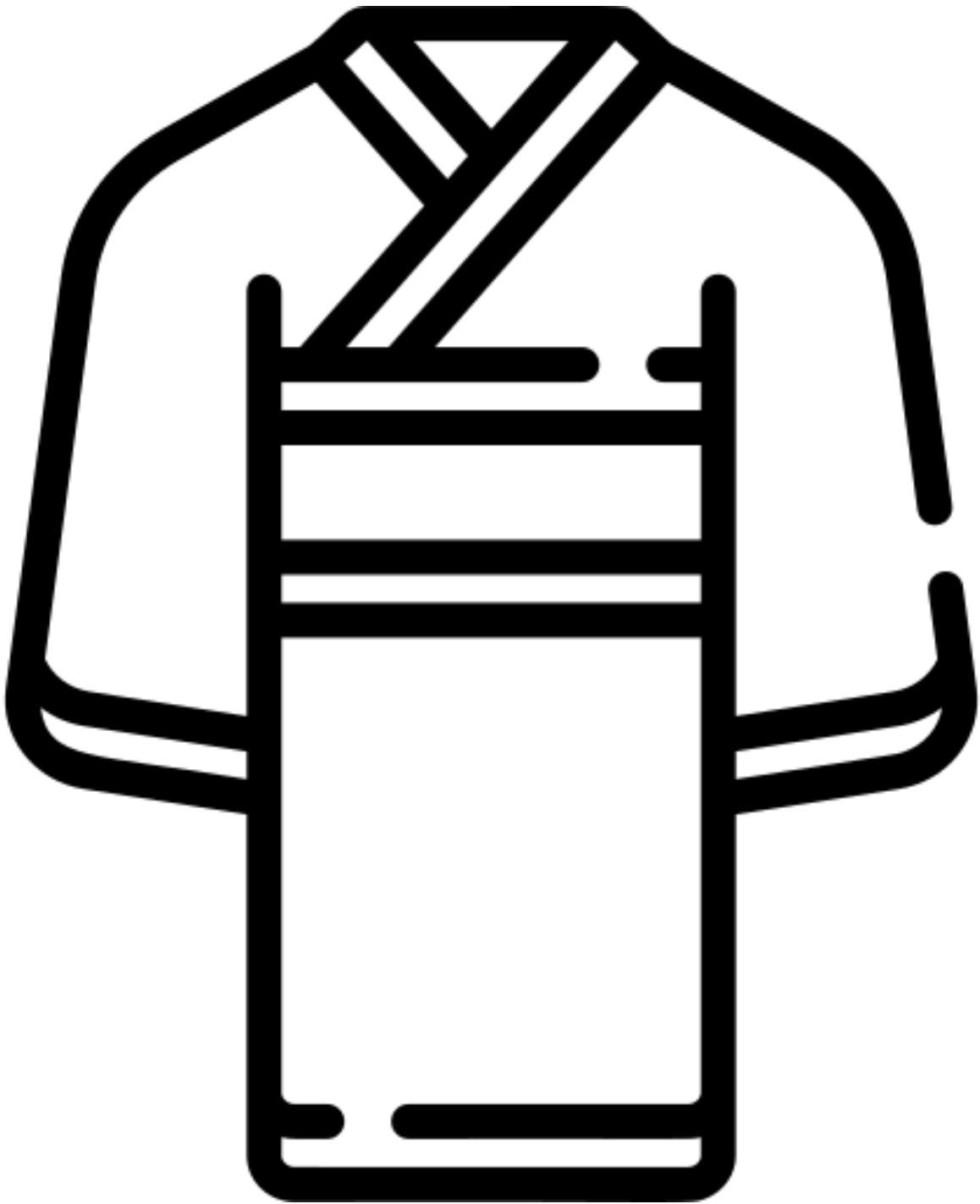
Activity

During Hanami some people like wearing their best kimonos, often showing beautiful flower designs and other spring-like patterns. Look at the kimonos in these pictures, explore the designs in objects from [our collection](#) and use them to create your own kimono pattern design by colouring the template on the next page.



Click the image to see more kimono examples

Photo by Bady Qb on Unsplash

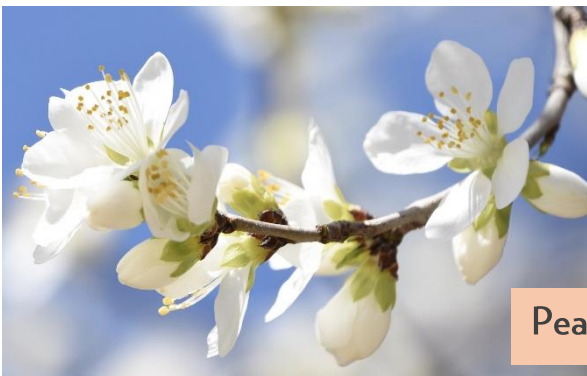


Icon made by Freepik on www.flaticon.com

Answer Sheet



Cherry Blossom



Peach Blossom



Plum Blossom