Cherry Blossoms

Hanami is the Japanese tradition of picnicking beneath the blossom of a cherry tree. Hanami celebrations bring people together to celebrate the arrival of spring.

Facts:
- The National Cherry Blossom Festival in D.C. attracts 1.5 million visitors each year.
- Cherry blossoms grow all over the US, including in the Pacific Northwest.
- Cherry blossoms have a short peak bloom time of up to 14 days.
- Cherry blossoms are the national flower of Japan.

Reads:
- In Blossom by Cheon Yooju
- Cherry Blossom and Paper Planes by Jef Aerts
- Sakura’s Cherry Blossoms by Robert Paul Weston
- Eliza’s Cherry Trees by Andrea Griffing Zimmerman

Life is short like the three-day glory of the cherry blossom

—Traditional Japanese haiku

Tacoma Public Library
1102 Tacoma Avenue South
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Painted Handprint Cherry Blossom Tree

**Materials:**
* Q-Tips
* Various Shades of Pink/White Craft Paint
* Light Blue/Brown Cardstock
* Paper Plate
* Craft Scissors
* Pencil
* Glue Stick
Optional – scrapbook stickers/bird embellishment

**Directions:**
* First trace and cut out your child’s handprint/arm out of the brown cardstock. This is the start of the cherry blossom tree.
* Grab your glue stick and glue the handprint to the center of your light blue cardstock.
* Now grab your craft paint and squirt it on the paper plate.
* Have your child take a Q-tip, dip it into the paint, then onto the branches of their “handprint” tree.
Repeat until your cherry blossom tree is nice and full.
* To finish off the tree, add other embellishments you see fit (like a bird sticker) and set aside to let it dry completely, before displaying proudly!


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**The Cherry Blossoms Song**

Sa-ku-ra, ya-yo-i no so-ra wa
Cherry blossoms, across the spring sky.

Mi-wa-ta-su ka-gi-ri
As far as you can see.

Ni-o-i zo i-zu-ru
Fragrant in the air.

Let’s look, at last!