

Slide 1

***'Hanakotoba'***

Flower Symbolism in  
Japanese Culture

## Slide 2



### Notes

**Hanakotoba** is the Japanese 'language of flowers'.

One of the first things to be noted about Japan has been the prominence of flower symbolism in nation's culture through the ages, an aspect that has historically and continues to play a vital role in Japanese art, literature and everyday life.

It derives from Japan's early Buddhist ideology which created a spiritual, nature-loving nation in which many flower varieties are given prominence.

Essentially, each flower has its own meaning, often based on its physical attributes and/or well known appearances in historical art and literature.

Each flower symbol can therefore be used to convey a specific emotion or sentiment without the need to use words.

The following slides show some popular examples of **flower symbolism in Japanese culture...**

## Slide 3

### **Cherry Blossom**

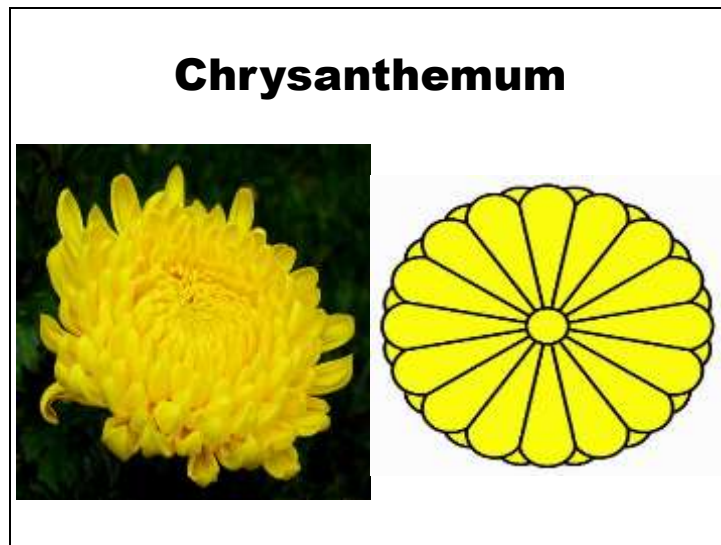


#### **Notes**

Cherry blossom is the most popular flower symbol in Japan, so much so that there's even a festival to celebrate its arrival in the spring (*hanami*).

Cherry blossom is a symbol of *wabi-sabi*, an important world view in Japan relating to the acceptance of transience and imperfection, as well as gentleness and kindness.

Slide 4



**Notes**

**Chrysanthemum.** The chrysanthemum is the symbol of the Emperor and the Imperial family, and it is said to represent longevity and rejuvenation.

## Slide 5

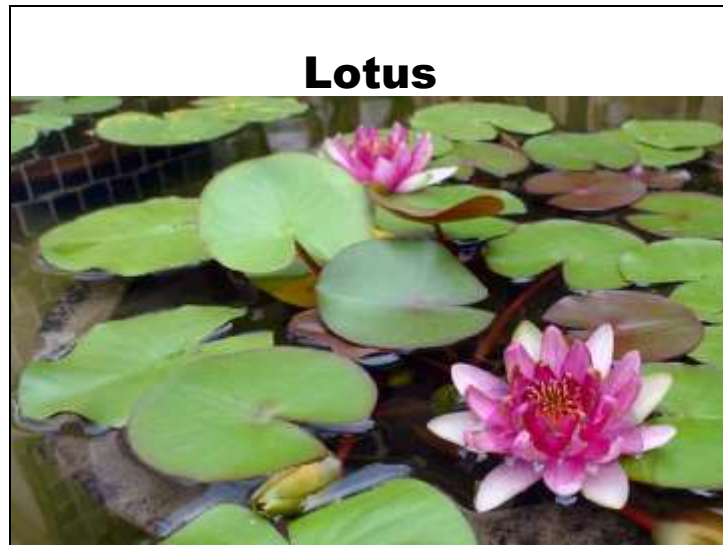
### **Peony**



#### **Notes**

Peony is known as the 'King of Flowers' and is a symbol of good fortune, bravery and honour, and is often used in tattoos to signify a devil-may-care attitude.

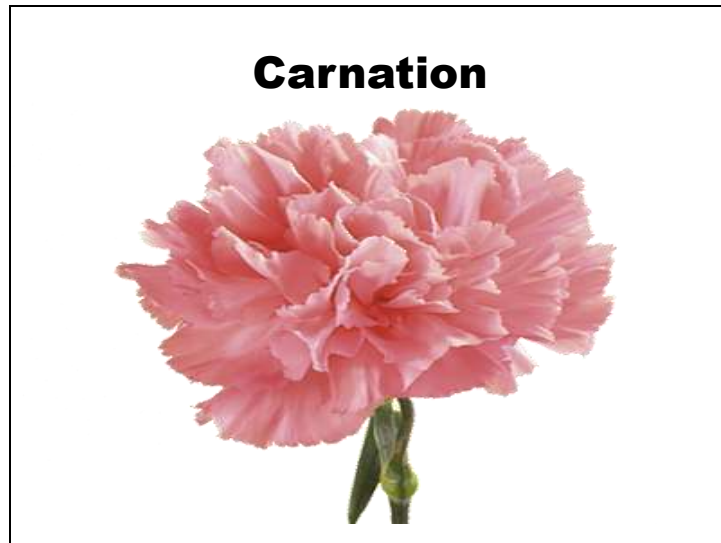
Slide 6



Notes

**Lotus** represents purity of the body, speech, and mind; derived from Buddhist symbolism.

Slide 7



**Notes**

**Carnations** symbolise fascination, distinction and love.

Slide 8

## **Camellia**



Notes

Camellias – Denote Humility, Discretion, Perfect love. ...



Slide 9



Nanking – 1937.