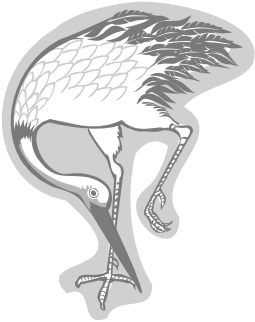


Learning Can Be Fun!

Exploring Symbolism

Animals



According to Japanese legend, cranes live 1,000 years, and if one folds 1,000 cranes, one will enjoy health and good luck. The crane is a symbol of longevity, happiness, good luck and peace. Many cultures assign symbolic meaning to animals. In Japan, a fish symbolizes happiness, well being, freedom, strength, courage and determination. Rabbits are associated with fertility and rebirth. Japanese dragons are symbols of power, wisdom, mastery and success, although they have a less positive reputation in the West. Frogs are symbols of good fortune and help ensure a safe return from journeys. Turtles are symbols of longevity and protection, and they unite Heaven and Earth. Cats represent independence, mystery and balance. Llamas exhibit endurance in difficult situations, responsibility and hard work.

Think of some other animals and what they symbolize, for example an eagle, bear, lion, mouse, wolf, raven or owl. Different cultures may attribute somewhat different characteristics to animal symbols. Can you think of an animal body part associated with good luck in the U.S.?

Pick a quality that is important to you (e.g., courage, honor, strength, humility, honesty, kindness, integrity) and pick an animal that could symbolize it. Create this animal by drawing it, making a collage to picture it, or write an essay describing the animal and why you have chosen it to symbolize this quality.

Animal symbolism information in part courtesy of <http://thepapercraneorigami.com/animal-symbolism>

Peace Symbols

The internationally recognized peace symbol at the right was designed in 1958 by Gerald Holtom, a design student and nuclear disarmament activist from England. It combines the semaphore letters “N” (flags extended down at the sides) and “D” (one flag held over the head and one below the waist in a straight line), representing “nuclear disarmament.” The circle represents the world.



There are many other possible symbols for peace. Think about other representations of peace you know such as a dove, an olive branch, etc. Think about what peace means to you and how you might achieve it.

Next, design your own peace symbol and write a brief description of why you have used the elements you have chosen to represent peace. Is there a reason why you chose particular colors?

At the foot of the Peace Memorial in honor of Sadako and other children who died as a result of the bombing of Hiroshima, there is a plaque that reads: “This is our cry. This is our prayer. Peace in the world.” The memorial was dedicated on Children’s Day, May 5, 1958. The statue depicts Sadako holding a golden crane in her outstretched arms.

What inscription would you place on a peace memorial? What would you say to people to try to encourage them to preserve peace and live in harmony with others?

Peace symbol information in part courtesy of www.planetpals.com/IKC/lsongs.html

Expanding Your Mind!

Rituals and Traditions

There is mention of several rituals in *A Thousand Cranes*: taking one's shoes off upon entering the home, bowing to one's parents, bowing to show one's respect for one's ancestors, lighting candles to honor and guide one's ancestors, etc.

Many things that are repeated on a regular basis can become rituals, even taking a morning or evening walk or walking the dog at a certain time can become a ritual. Masks can be used for rituals. Some dances have ritual meaning and significance. Rituals associated with holidays and festivals can be important. What holidays or festivals make you feel connected to the people most important to you?



Make a list of nonreligious rituals that are part of your life: at home, within your family, at school. Which ones are daily rituals and which ones are associated with special occasions?

Share your list of rituals with other students and compare your list with theirs. How many rituals are similar? Which ones are different? Do you think these rituals are different because of family traditions, personal preferences, habit, or cultural influences? Many of our rituals are associated with religion. Why do you think that is the case?

My Rituals

Personal Rituals:

Family Rituals:



School Rituals:

Holiday Rituals:





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 The Marcia P. Hoffman Performing Arts Institute
 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater, FL 33759
www.eckerdtheatercompany.com

Additional Resources

Ask your school or local librarian for help in locating these books for you!

Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes
 by Eleanor Coerr

One Thousand Paper Cranes: The Story of Sadako and the Children's Peace Statue
 by Takayuki Ishii

Understanding Radiation
 by Björn Wahlström

Hiroshima: The Story of the First Atom Bomb
 by Clive Lawton

Check out these Internet sites for additional information!

www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/index_e2.html

<http://web-japan.org/kidsweb>

www.atomicarchive.com/sciencemenu.shtml

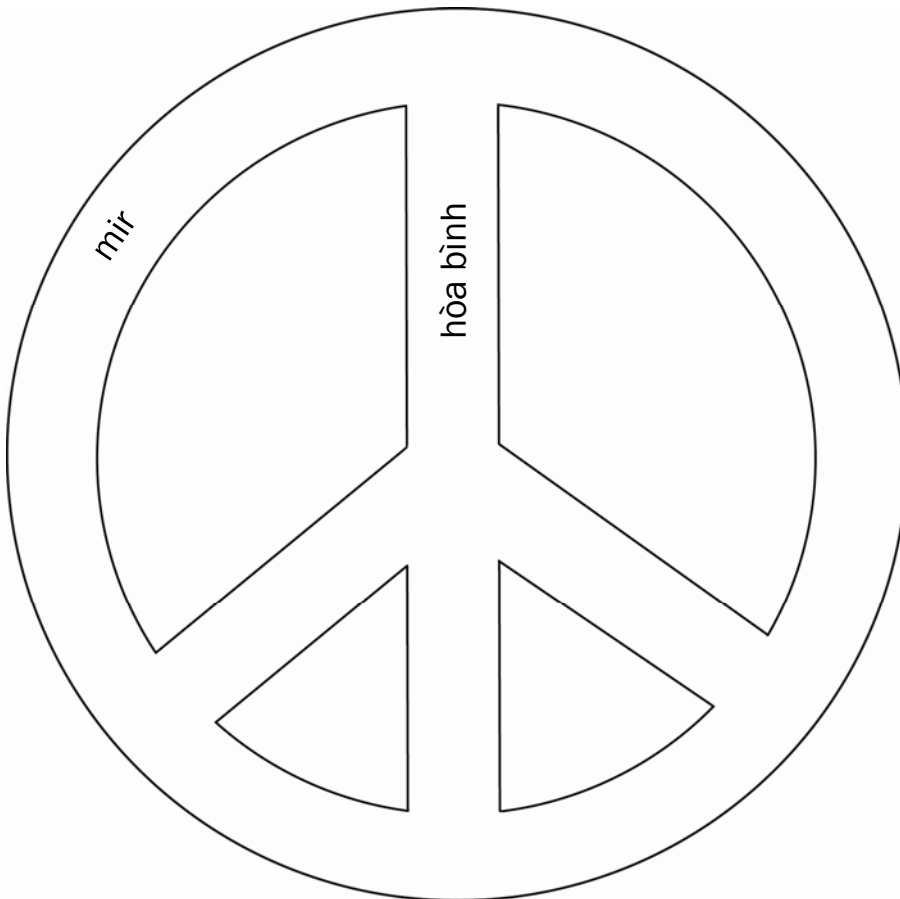
www.japan-guide.com/e/e691.html

www.iap-peacetree.org/opt

<http://bestpaperairplanes.com>

Peace Around the World

On a map, identify seven to ten countries that have been engaged in armed conflict since Sadako's time, including those at war today. At the library or online, read about those countries and make a list of what the conflicts are/were about and what languages are spoken in the countries you have chosen. Look up the words for peace in these languages. Next, write the words for peace in all of these languages inside the peace symbol below. You may color or decorate your peace symbol if you like.



We want to hear from YOU! Write to us at The Marcia P. Hoffman Performing Arts Institute at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater, FL 33759

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