

An important element to a Japanese style garden is water. Water has no fixed shape; it always takes the shape of its container. It is in constant motion and its shape is ever-changing.

Water in a pond creates the sense of width and depth, but also introduces a feeling of movement into the environment. Ponds are usually fed by nearby streams or waterfalls. The streams and waterfalls that feed the pond add a impression of energy to a garden.

Our koi pond's water originates from the waterfall at the highest point of the Garden. It meanders downhill, aerating and flowing into the pond. A pump at the double moon bridge sends the water thru a filtration system and back up to the top of the waterfall.

The koi pond is a part of the symbolism of the turtle as it has a turtle shape. The significance of the turtle symbol is that in Japanese legend it means good fortune. From an aerial view the main lake is the turtle's body, the double moon bridge is the collar and the Koi pond is the head.

It is often wondered if the double moon bridge, that is made out of stone and represents the neck of a turtle, gives meaning of the Buddhist concept of rebirth. In Japanese garden design, bridges had a spiritual meaning in the Buddhist faith. Frequently, stroll gardens had a central island and the act of crossing over to the island over a bridge represented the possibility for rebirth.

The koi are a significant part of our garden's representation of a living museum. Koi were first cultivated in China around 470 B.C. The fancy coloration of Koi carp appeared later when rice farmers first began breeding them for their colors and patterns. Red and white colors in koi represent joy and purity. Koi symbolizes great fortune, luck, perseverance in adversity and strength of purpose. The selection of koi is done through the observation of the health of their skin, size, their body shape, and the fish's movement in the water.

Koi can live up to 30-40 years in the wild, and in captivity up to 70 years. The oldest koi that has ever been recorded was 226 years old, the fish transitioned through several generations.

The koi pond is not only a central attraction inside of Shinzen, it is a demonstration of the natural pairing of living plants and living species that complement each other. This feature is one that brings to mind the transformative properties contained in this living museum, where no perspective will ever be the same.

SYMBOLISM:

You will learn about symbolism in the Garden. Symbolism is when a non-living and living thing represents a different idea.

California State Board of Education Standard are used for the following leading questions.

LEADING QUESTION:

Grades 3rd -5th

KEY IDEAS & DETAILS

1. Find a non-living and a living thing that represent an idea and tell us what they represent.

[Link to video](#)

CRAFT & STRUCTURE

1. Do you agree that a garden is a living museum?

INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE & IDEAS

1. Give an example of something that is non-living that is symbolic of something else?

Grades 6th - 8th

CRAFT & STRUCTURE

1. What do you believe is the author's main purpose in writing this article?

INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE & IDEAS

1. What is the genre of this piece and what in the article demonstrates it?

TEXT TYPES & PURPOSE

1. In a well-defined paper, explain how you would build a garden with symbols similar to the one presented in this article. State what type of garden you would build, what symbols you would integrate and share what significance your garden will have in your community.

Grades 9th - 12th

KEY IDEAS & DETAILS

1. What is the central idea of the text, give examples of how the central idea is defined?

TEXT TYPES & PURPOSE

1. In a well-defined paper, explain how you would build a garden with symbols similar to the one presented in this article. State what type of garden you would build, what symbols you would integrate and share what significance your garden will have in your community.

RESEARCH TO BUILD & PRESENT KNOWLEDGE

1. This article works with one main genre, which one is it and which is the secondary genre, explain.

ADDITIONAL LESSON PLANS from Shinzen Friendship Garden

From the Welcome to the Shinzen Garden Series

1. The 1939 Lantern (link to video)
 - The 1939 Lantern (link to document)
2. Design Concepts (link to video)
 - Design Concepts (link to document)
3. The Toro Nagashi Ceremony (link to video)
 - The Toro Nagashi Ceremony (link to document)

ADDITIONAL LESSON PLANS from GSBF-Clark Bonsai Collection

From the Welcome to the Clark Bonsai Collection Series

1. Yamadori and the Contribution of Japanese Americans to the Art of Bonsai (link to video)
 - Yamadori and the Contribution of Japanese Americans to the Art of Bonsai (link to document)
2. How Old Is It? Age in Bonsai (link to video)

- How Old Is It? Age in Bonsai (link to document)
- 3. The Peace Tree Bonsai (link to video)
 - The Peace Tree Bonsai (link to document)
- 4. An Outdoor Museum (link to video)
 - An Outdoor Museum (link to document)

ADDITIONAL LINKS TO JAPANESE CULTURE & GARDENS

Visit us at: <http://shinzenjapanesegarden.org>

1. Traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony (link to video)
2. Japanese Chado Matcha Green Tea Ceremony (link to video)
3. 45 Japanese Garden Design Ideas (link to video)
4. Portland Japanese Garden (link to website)
5. Oregon Koto-Kai Performances (link to website)
6. Green Legacy Hiroshima (link to website)
7. Hiroshima Peace Tree Planted in Clovis (link to website)

ADDITIONAL LINKS TO GSBF BONSAI COLLECTIONS & BONSAI

Visit us at: <https://gsbfclarkbonsaicollection.org>

1. CBC_Behind the Scene with Bob Hilvers, "John Naka – California Juniper" (link to video)
2. CBC_Behind the Scene with Bob Hilvers, "The Dwarf Oak" (link to video)
3. CBC_Behind the Scene with Bob Hilvers, "Basic Bonsai 01" (link to video)
4. CBC_Behind the Scene with Bob Hilvers, "Basic Bonsai 02" (link to video)
5. CBC_Behind the Scene with Bob Hilvers, "Basic Bonsai 03" (link to video)

