**Seasons: Picnicking Under Cherry Blossoms and Boating on the River (Grade Pre-K)**

*Picnicking Under Cherry Blossoms and Boating on the River, mid 18th-century, Japanese, Nishikawa Sukenobu*

Pair of six-panel screens; ink, color and gold on paper, 40 x 18 1/2 in. (101.6 x 46.99 cm) Overall: 41 1/4 x 112 1/2 in., Margaret E. Fuller Purchase Fund, 62.133.1

Find online at: [https://tinyurl.com/yafhwlcl](https://tinyurl.com/yafhwlcl)

**LOOKING QUESTIONS**

First, take a long and careful look at the art work. Look at every detail, from top to bottom and side to side. Then, talk about it with a friend or family member!

- What's going on in this image? What do you see that makes you say that? What more can we find?
- What do you think the people in this image might be doing? Does it remind you of anything you have seen or done before?
- What season do you think it is? Winter? Fall? Spring? What do you see that makes you say that?

**INFORMATION**

This image is just a small part of a large screen created by an artist using ink and gold on paper. We know that this scene is taking place in the spring because the cherry trees are blooming. This artwork was made in Japan, where many people celebrate the springtime cherry blossoms each year. We have lots of cherry blossoms in Seattle, too! Have you seen a tree with flowers before? Where? In the image, people are relaxing and picnicking under cherry blossom trees. What types of activities do you like to do in the spring?

**MOVEMENT ACTIVITY**

Act out the life cycle of a tree by moving your body!

- Begin as a seed.
- Break through the dirt and become a sprout.
- Slowly begin to stretch your limbs out wide, like a fully grown tree!
- Pretend there is a wind storm. How will your branches move and sway?

**KEEP LEARNING WITH A STORY**

*Fletcher and the Springtime Blossoms*, by Julia Rawlinson (PK–3)

Jump into spring with Fletcher as he plays in nature and comes across a big surprise.

- Hear the book read out loud here: [https://tinyurl.com/s9kwajp](https://tinyurl.com/s9kwajp).

**ART ACTIVITY**

Create a multi-media artwork inspired by nature and springtime.
Materials
Cardstock or construction paper for base, thin branches/twigs trimmed to fit paper, hot glue gun or tape to secure branch to paper, tissue paper cut into small squares in blossom colors (pinks, reds, white, and greens), scissors, glue stick, markers, or crayons.

If you don’t have tissue paper, you can always use plain paper, coffee filters, newspaper, or newsprint. Cut into small squares and color with markers!

Steps
1. Begin by finding a thin branch or twig to use in your artwork! Take an outdoor break to look in your backyard or in your neighborhood.

2. Arrange your twigs on your base paper to create a tree trunk and branches. Have an adult help attach your twigs to your base paper using a hot glue gun or tape.

3. Cut or rip your tissue paper (or plain paper, newsprint, newspaper, or coffee filter if using) into small squares.

4. Create texture by crumpling the tissue paper squares, then glue them onto your branches to create blossoms. Place lots of blossoms all over the branches! Try using different colors!

5. Add any details you’d like with markers. Think about where your tree is and what lives around it.

Share your masterpiece with your family and friends! Hang it in your window or somewhere in your home.