



Cherry Blossoms Soda Bottle Art

Do you have plastic bottles filling up your recycling bin? You can repurpose them while creating beautiful art and learning about these historic flowers! All you need is a few common materials and your imagination!



MATERIALS

Paper

Paint

Plastic Soda Bottle

Marker, Pen, or Pencil

Twigs (optional)

Glue (optional)

Bubble Wrap (optional)

STEPS

Step 1: Draw or paint a tree with branches.

Step 2: Pour paint onto a plate. Cherry blossoms are traditionally pink, white, and ivory, however you can use whatever color(s) you want.

Step 3: Dip the bottom of your bottle into the paint. The bottoms of most plastic soda bottles have five points just like the 5 petals of a cherry blossom!

Step 4: Press the paint-covered bottom of the bottle onto your paper along the branches. Continue to dip the bottle in the paint and press it onto different branches. The imprint will naturally create the look of cherry blossoms!



CREATIVE VARIATIONS.....

FLOWER GARDEN

While cherry blossoms are traditionally pink, plastic soda bottles can be used to paint blossoms of all different kinds! Consider creating a tree with different colored flowers:



BUBBLE WRAP

Try creating smaller blossom clusters by using the same method with pieces of bubble wrap instead of soda bottles! This requires a little more in the way of fine motor skills:



TWIG BRANCHES

Consider gluing twigs onto your paper to create your tree and branches rather than drawing them:



FUN CHERRY BLOSSOM FACTS

By Rebecca Shinnars, Country Living, JAN 7, 2020

- ❖ Cherry blossoms symbolize renewal. Known as "sakura" in Japanese, these pale blooms are a symbol of spring because it is a time of renewal. However, because the blooms are short-lived, they are also symbolic of the fleeting nature of life.
- ❖ US cherry blossom trees date back to 1912. The first US cherry trees were planted in 1912 as a gift of friendship from Japan. Over 3,000 trees spanning 12 varieties were shipped from Yokohama to Seattle. They were then transferred to freight cars and sent to Washington, D.C.
- ❖ Cherry blossoms are said to be native to the Himalayas. According to the Huffington Post, these flowers likely originated somewhere in Eurasia before migrating to Japan.
- ❖ They aren't always pink. Flowers can range in color from pale pink to bright pink as well as white and ivory. For example, in Washington D.C. 70% of the trees are made up of Yoshinos which have single white blossoms. However, because they are mixed in with Akebono cherry trees, the Yoshino has mutated to present pale pink blossoms.
- ❖ Neither D.C. nor Japan hold the title of "Cherry Blossom Capital of the World." Rather, it's Macon, Georgia, which is home to over 350,000 Yoshino cherry blossom trees. That's 90 times the amount that Washington, DC has!
- ❖ You can get arrested for breaking off a blossom. Yep, think again before you decide to pluck one of these pink beauties. Removing a blossom or branch is considered vandalism of federal property in Washington, D.C., which can lead to a citation or even an arrest.
- ❖ 400 cherry trees in Amsterdam are individually named. All of the 400 cherry trees in Amsterdam's Amsterdamse Bos are named. In 2000, the Japan Women's Club donated the trees to the city to celebrate the two nations' relationship.

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