In addition to the Resources for Sakura in Japanese Culture linked here, I have created 1) a bibliography of outstanding books for teaching Japanese culture through the study of the Japanese celebration of Sakura, 2) found an incredible resource available online through the Smithsonian Institute with lesson plans for the study of Japan, and 3) provided a quick and easy online resource to create word searches and crossword puzzles.

1. Bibliography for the study of Japanese culture through the celebration of Sakura:


2. Exceptional resource available online through the Smithsonian Institute, “The Arts of Japan: A Teacher’s Guide” at:
Included in this resource are four lesson plans for various grade levels, K-12, including goals such as:

1. To write a haiku inspired by the brilliant painting “Waves of Matsushima” by Sotatsu.
2. To instill an appreciation for the way natural imagery and sensory information are used in the composition of a haiku poem.
3. To understand the significance of Japan’s Mount Fuji, relate it to other similar places in the United States, and convey the importance of a cultural landmark through visual art.
   a. What is a place that might represent Washington, D.C., to the world? Can you think of one place of cultural significance to the Japanese people in Washington, D.C.?
   b. Students may already know about cherry blossoms, but if not, share with them that cherry blossom trees were given in 1912 by the people of Tokyo to the people of Washington, D.C. These particular cherry blossom trees are seen as a symbol of friendship between the United States and Japan. They are near the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C. Every year there is a Cherry Blossom Festival in late March through early April, because around that time the trees bloom. Cherry blossoms are treasured in Japan because of their beauty and because the flowers are in bloom for only a short time each year.
   c. What do you think is one place that is very sacred in Japan or special to the Japanese people? Why? Where did you learn about this place?

3. Teachers and students can create word searches and crossword puzzles at:
   www.puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com
   www.crosswordpuzzlegames.com
   (See example on following page.)

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Sakura