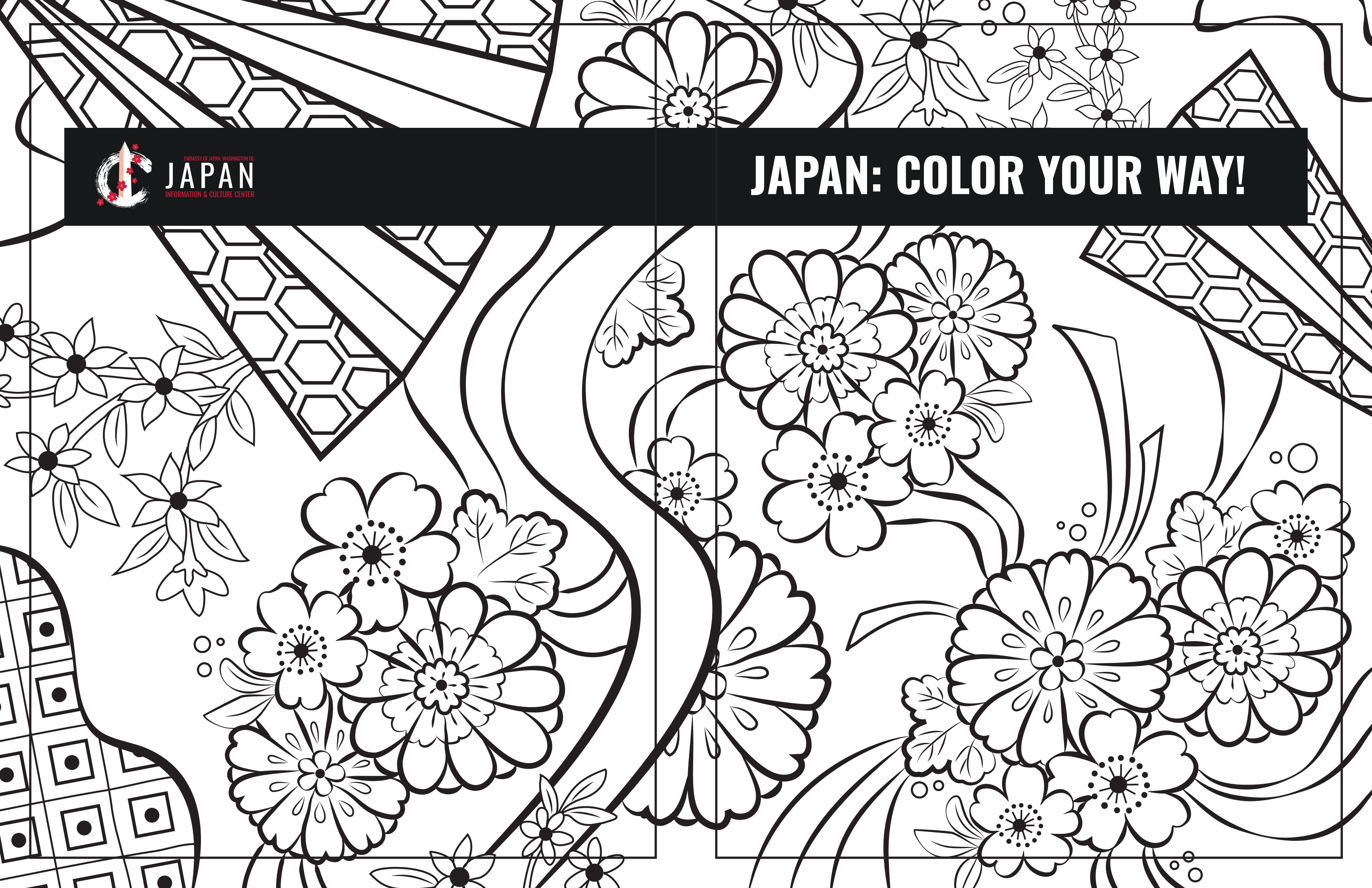


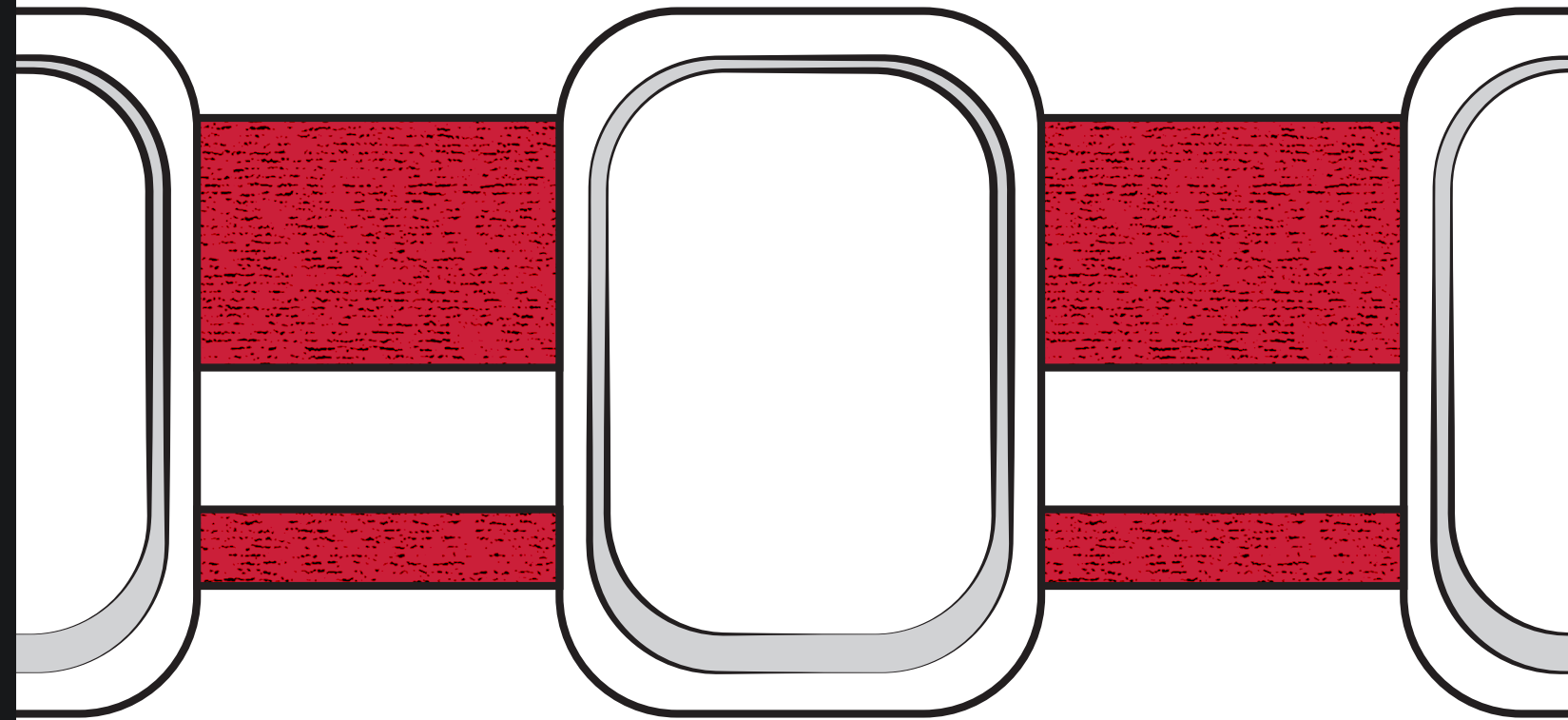


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JAPAN: COLOR YOUR WAY!



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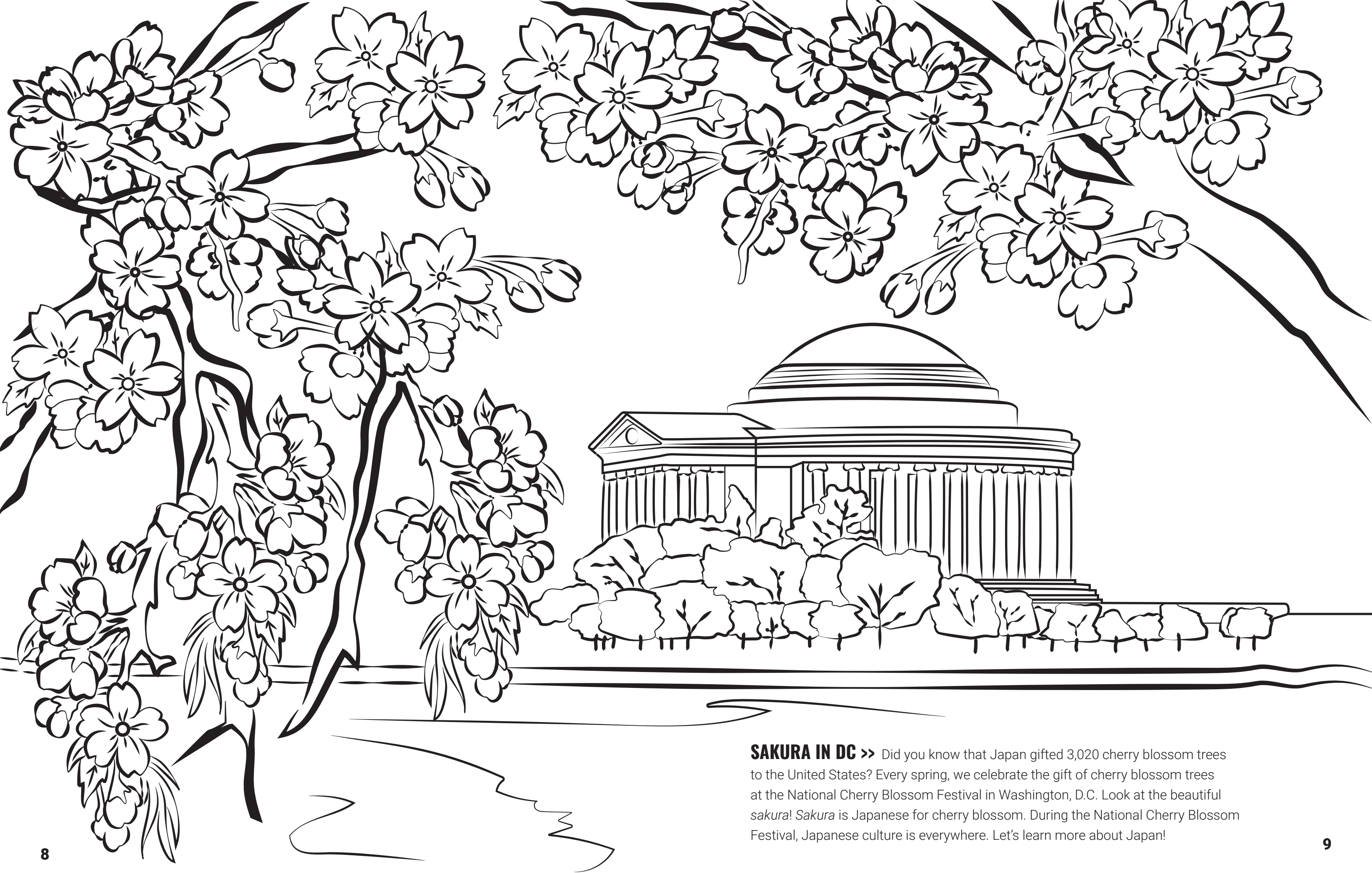
Japan: Color Your Way!

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Japan Information & Culture Center,
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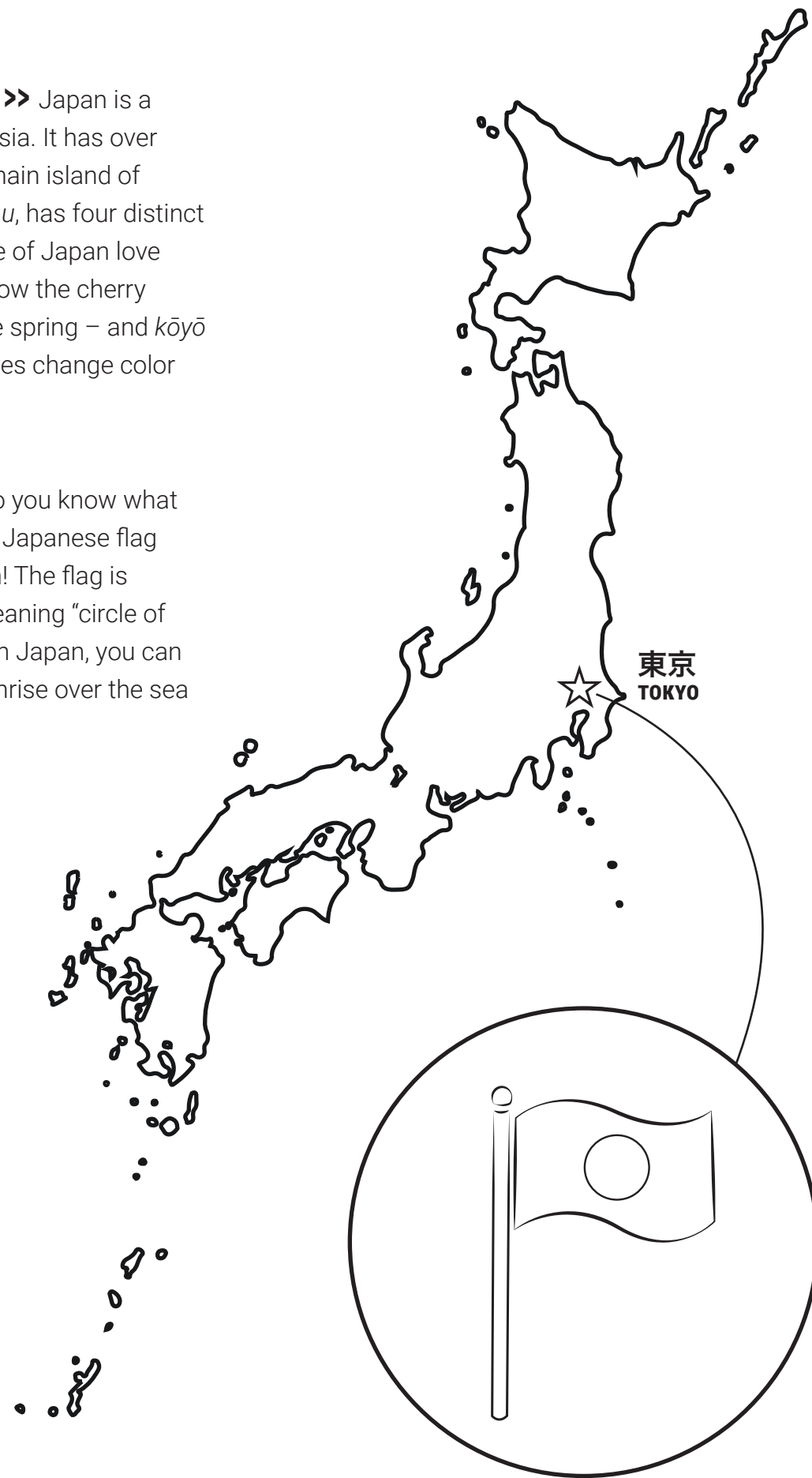
INTRODUCTION >> The Japan Information & Culture Center (JICC), Embassy of Japan is proud to present *Japan: Color Your Way!* This book will explore Japanese culture and Japan's friendship with the United States. Before we go straight to Japan, let's explore closer to home. Start by drawing yourself in the window of the airplane to Japan!



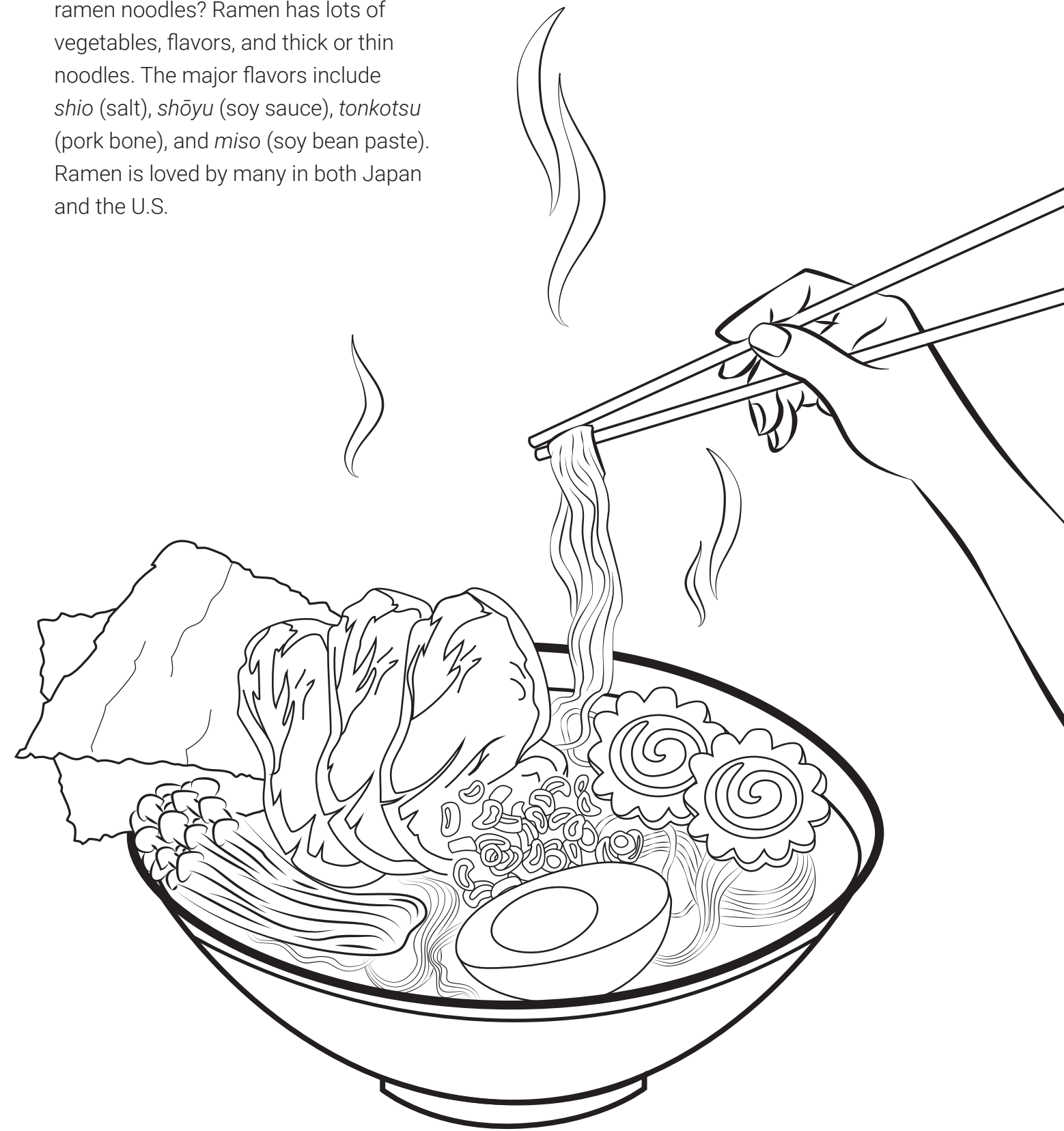
SAKURA IN DC >> Did you know that Japan gifted 3,020 cherry blossom trees to the United States? Every spring, we celebrate the gift of cherry blossom trees at the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C. Look at the beautiful *sakura*! *Sakura* is Japanese for cherry blossom. During the National Cherry Blossom Festival, Japanese culture is everywhere. Let's learn more about Japan!

EXPLORE JAPAN >> Japan is a country located in Asia. It has over 6,800 islands. The main island of Japan, called *Honshu*, has four distinct seasons. The people of Japan love *hanami* – sitting below the cherry blossom trees in the spring – and *kōyō* – watching the leaves change color in the fall.

HINOMARU >> Do you know what the red circle on the Japanese flag represents? The sun! The flag is called *Hinomaru*, meaning “circle of the sun.” Every day in Japan, you can see the beautiful sunrise over the sea to the East.



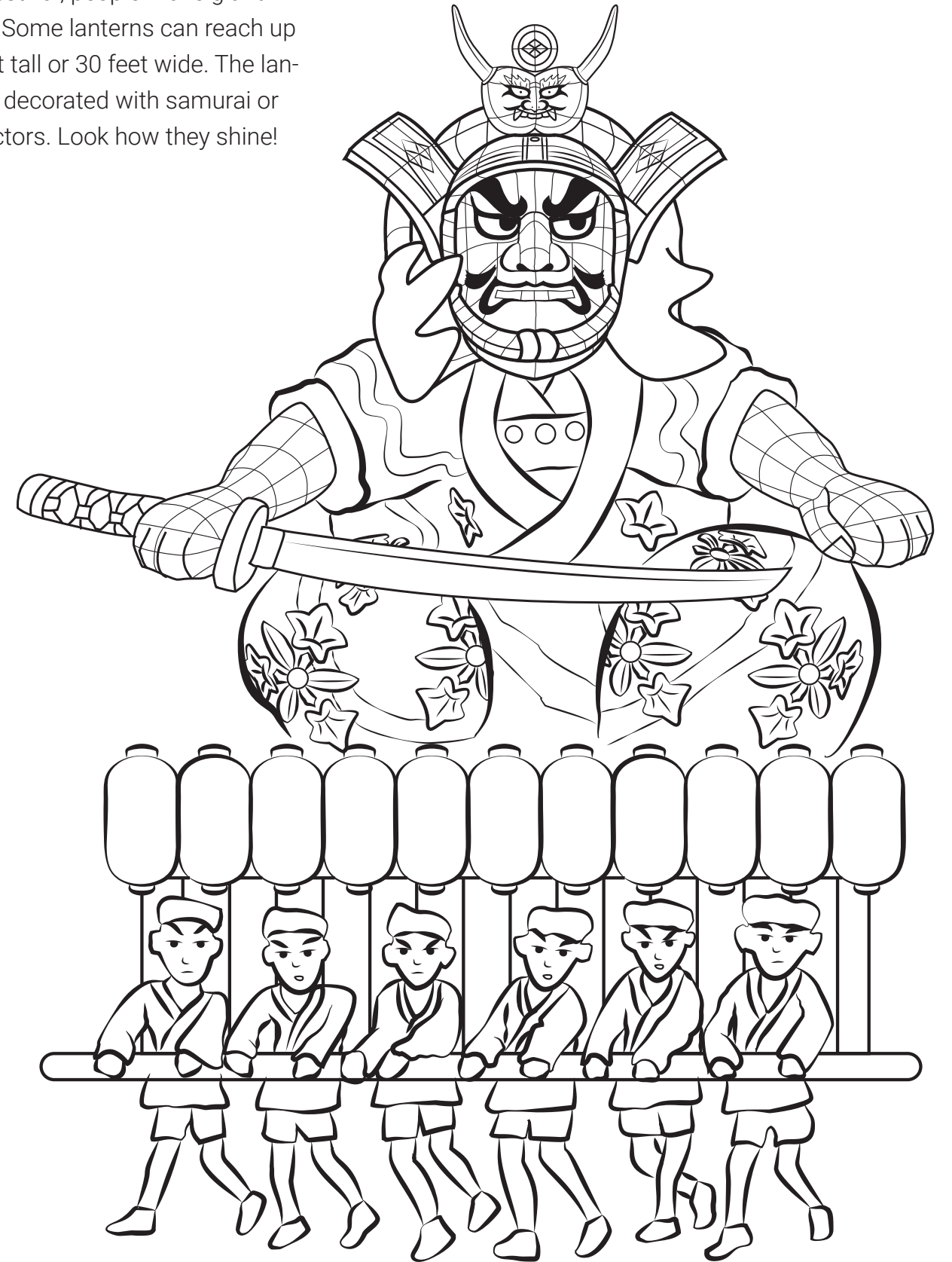
RAMEN >> Have you ever heard of ramen noodles? Ramen has lots of vegetables, flavors, and thick or thin noodles. The major flavors include *shio* (salt), *shōyu* (soy sauce), *tonkotsu* (pork bone), and *miso* (soy bean paste). Ramen is loved by many in both Japan and the U.S.

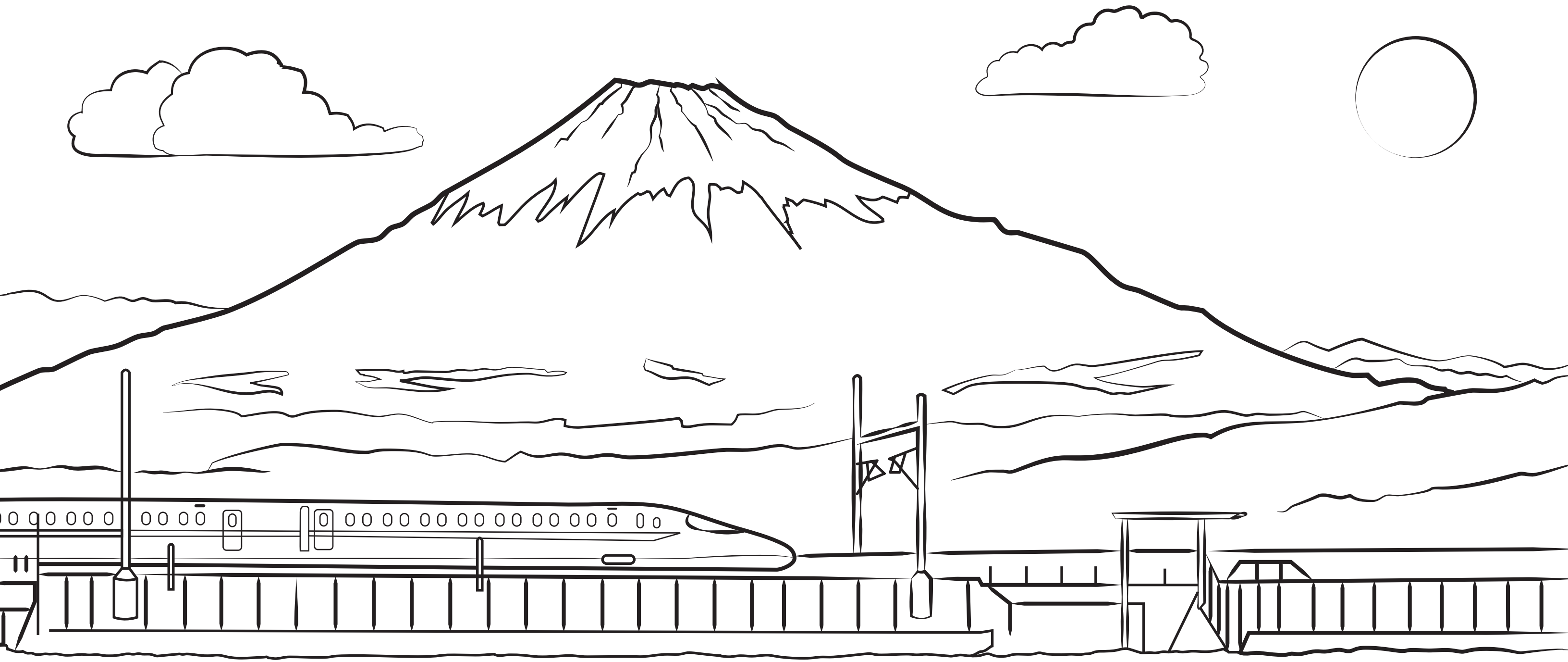


KIMONO >> The Japanese people have been wearing kimono for almost one thousand years. Kimono are silk robes worn with a long *obi* belt. This way, a kimono can fit people of different sizes. Today, many people wear clothing similar to those found in the U.S. However, kimono are still worn on special occasions such as graduations, tea ceremonies, and festivals.



NEBUTA >> Speaking of festivals, one famous festival is the Nebuta Festival. For the festival, people make giant lanterns. Some lanterns can reach up to 15 feet tall or 30 feet wide. The lanterns are decorated with samurai or kabuki actors. Look how they shine!





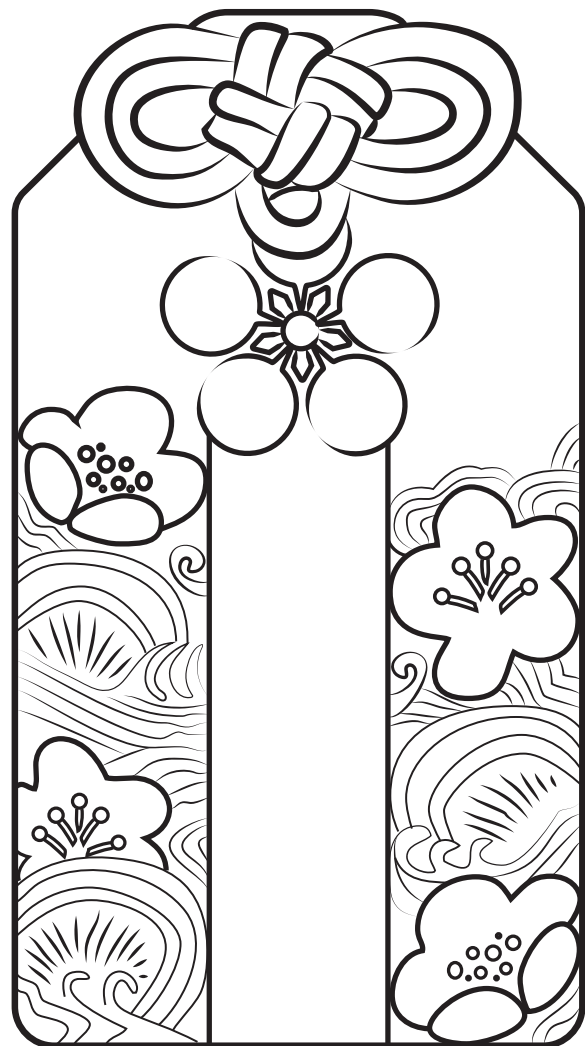
HIGH SPEED FUN >> If you want to explore Japan, use the trains! You can get to almost anywhere you want in Japan by train. The *shinkansen* train can reach almost 200 mph. These trains are often shaped like birds. They even have nicknames like *hayabusa* (falcon).

GOOD FORTUNE >> The New Year is considered one of the most important holidays in Japan. The *daruma* and *o-mamori* are two items you might pick up during this time.

DARUMA >> A *daruma* is a good-luck doll. If you tip it over, it returns to its upright position. They remind you to get back up and try again. Draw the left eye while thinking of a goal. When you reach the goal, draw the other eye.



O-MAMORI >> An *o-mamori* is another type of good-luck charm. It can be found at Shinto shrines or Buddhist temples. Many students buy *o-mamori* in January, February, and March. During this time, students are studying for exams. This is because schools in Japan begin in April and end in March.



IKEBANA >> While visiting Japan, why not try ikebana? Ikebana is the Japanese word for flower arranging. In Japan, they use flowers, leaves, ferns, and other plants to make beautiful designs. In ikebana, it is important to have both empty space and colorful flowers.



KOKESHI >> On your way home, don't forget to pick up a souvenir for your friends and family. Kokeshi dolls are wooden dolls decorated with red, black, and yellow paint. The dolls are said to be guardians of children and represent good luck. Kokeshi traditionally have a round head and a cylindrical body. Now, kokeshi have many colors, shapes, and sizes.

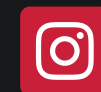


CONCLUSION >> Did you enjoy *Japan: Color Your Way*? We hope you found the different images exciting and colorful. Maybe next time, you can visit Japan yourself!

CONNECT WITH US >> What is your favorite part of Japanese culture? Tell us and show us your colorful artwork using the hashtag #DCJICC for a chance to be featured on our instagram!



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