

TITLE: *Japanese Furisode (Crane Motif)*

ARTIST: Unknown

DATE: 2004

MEDIUM: Silk and embroidery

ACQUISITION #: 2008.26

ADDITIONAL WORKS BY ARTIST IN COLLECTION?

YES ___ NO ___ Unknown X



WHAT'S A KIMONO?

Kimono, meaning “thing to wear,” is a traditional garment worn in Japan. As a universal symbol of Japan, the kimono refers to the eternity and endurance of traditional beauty. With a thousand years plus history, the kimono is still worn by people in Japan for special occasions such as tea ceremonies, festivals, or weddings. Among the different types of kimonos, the furisode, with almost floor-length “swinging sleeves,” is the one most often associated with Japan. Young adult women wear furisodes until they get married.

VOCABULARY

Furisode – The most formal kimono style, it has long sleeves, and is worn by unmarried Japanese women.

Kimono – A traditional Japanese robe garment.



HISTORY OF THE KIMONO

Kimonos were created during the Heian period (794-1192). Prior to the Heian period, China had a great influence on the art of Japan, which included textile design. The initial form of the kimono looked similar to the formal clothing of Chinese nobility and scholars of the time. During the Edo period (1615-1868), a time of urbanization and artistic growth, the kimono became a symbol of personal display and aesthetic taste. During the Meiji period (1816-1912) when Japan opened its borders to greater foreign exchange, the West experienced kimonos and other Japanese artforms. During this period, men began to wear western business suits during work, but changed into kimonos at home. Western technology and science made silk kimonos affordable for many women for the first time. Western movements such as Art Nouveau and Art Deco also influenced the motifs and designs of kimonos during the Taishō Period (1912-1926).

COLOR AND DESIGN

The coloration of this kimono is primarily red, pink and white. The kimono design is comprised of red clouds, fading red waves, and white cranes. Of these kimono motifs, the cranes – nearly all ten of them – appear on the back side of the kimono. Red is the color of the sun and the national flag in Japanese culture, representing power and strong emotions. White, also one of the colors on the Japanese national flag, stands for purity and spiritual sanctity in Japanese culture. The green beaks of the cranes provide a contrast to the prevalent red tone. Gold borders and cording outline the cranes, waves and clouds.



Example of Taishō Period Kimono, 1912-1926



Example of Taishō Period Kimono, 1912-1926

SYMBOLISM: THE CRANE AND THE WAVE

In Japan the crane is one of a number of mystical or holy creatures, and symbolizes good fortune and longevity. In Japanese fables the crane enjoys a life span of a thousand years. Also referred to as the “bird of happiness,” the crane is believed to carry souls to paradise on its wings. Waves were regarded as symbols of gods of the seas in Japanese culture. The churning and flowing wave pattern represents strength.

REFERENCES

Barbara Goldberg, *The Japanese kimono*, School Arts, 92(1993): 31
<http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/h/a-history-of-the-kimono/>
http://www.ehow.co.uk/about_6658499_meaning-color-japanese-culture_.html
http://www.japanesepaperplace.com/wholesale/chiyo/about-chiyo-yuzen/faq_1-yuzen-chiyogami.htm
<https://kirikomade.com/blogs/our-fabrics/15314575-japanese-patterns>

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Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (K–5)

Big Idea: Critical thinking and reflection

Enduring Understanding 1: Cognition and reflection are required to appreciate, interpret, and create with artistic intent. Benchmark: VA.3.C.1.1 Use the art-making process to develop ideas for self-expression.

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (6–8)

Big Idea: Critical thinking and reflection

Enduring Understanding 2: Assessing our own and others' artistic work, using critical-thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills, is central to artistic growth.

Benchmark: VA.68.C.2.3 Examine artworks to form ideas and criteria by which to judge/assess and inspire personal works and artistic growth.

Make a Wish on Your Origami Crane: 6–8

Objective: Students will understand the use of symbols in Japanese culture, particularly the use of waves and cranes often seen in kimono design.

Materials: *Japanese Furisode (Crane Motif)*, markers, crayons, scissors, a large blank poster sheet, colored origami papers, kimono information websites (<https://www.japan-zone.com/culture/kimono.shtml>, <http://fashion-history.loveto know.com/clothing-types-styles/kimono>), *Japanese Prints & Textiles* on the FSU MoFA website (<http://mofa.fsu.edu/learning-resources/exhibition-resources/>), YouTube video of the story *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcsKcgEtlNc&t=3s>)

Session Activity: The teacher will introduce the *Japanese Furisode (Crane Motif)* to the class as well as present an overview of kimonos and Japanese symbols. The class will then visit the FSU Museum of Fine Arts to see the *Crane Motif Furisode* in person. The students will observe the *Crane Motif Furisode* and take photos of it. Based on previously introduced information on Japanese symbols, the teacher will ask students about their interpretations of the patterns and symbols on this furisode. The teacher will also ask students to do research on kimonos and symbols themselves. Using the pictures taken at the Museum as references and based on the waves of the *Crane Motif Furisode*, the teacher will have the students collaboratively design their own waves on a large poster sheet. After viewing a video related to the story *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcsKcgEtlNc&t=3s>), a discussion will be held to talk about themes and motifs of similarity between the story and the kimono. Finally, the students will fold origami cranes.

A wish will be written on each crane and attached to the poster created earlier. Students will briefly talk about their wishes and pin their cranes onto the poster. A final discussion will reflect on the symbolic meanings of the cranes and waves in the collaborative poster created by the class. These meanings will be compared and contrasted with the meanings of the cranes and waves of the kimono.

Procedures:

1. The students will acquire basic knowledge of kimonos (resources: <https://www.japan-zone.com/culture/kimono.shtml>, <http://fashion-history.loveto know.com/clothing-types-styles/kimono>).
2. The students will be introduced to and discuss the kimono of this Object Guide through a visit to the FSU MoFA (MoFA will show work from the permanent collection upon request).
3. The students will be introduced to and discuss an overview of symbols in Japanese culture (resources: <http://mofa.fsu.edu/learning-resources/exhibition-resources/>).
4. In the classroom the students will be introduced to the story *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* through a video at this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcsKcgEtlNc&t=3s>. The symbols and meaning of the story will be discussed.
5. Based on wave designs of the kimono of this Object Guide, the students will collaboratively design and execute a large “wave poster.”
6. The students will learn to fold origami cranes. Each student will fold a crane, write a wish on the crane, and pin the crane to the poster of waves.
7. Students will discuss the symbolic meanings of the “crane and wave poster” created collaboratively and compare and contrast these with the meanings of the crane and wave symbols in the kimono.

Create Your Own Crane Story and Cover: K–5

Objective: Students will understand some symbolic implications of the crane in Japanese culture.

Materials: pictures of *Japanese Furisode (Crane Motif)*, markers, crayons, colored pencils, glitter pens, scissors, blank papers, YouTube video of *The Grateful Crane* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=etGR9Ir-7rBM>)

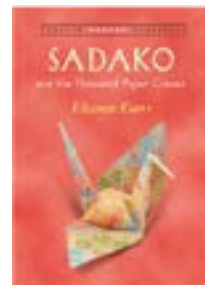
Session Activity: The teacher will show students the pictures of the *Japanese Furisode (Crane Motif)*. With the teacher's guidance, the students will discuss the kimono including its style and its pattern (e.g., waves, cranes, and clouds). During the second class, the teacher will show students the video *The Grateful Crane* on YouTube. The students will discuss the video guided by asking such questions as “Who are the main characters of the story? Why did the crane leave? What does the crane symbolize? What is a symbol? What is the meaning of the tale?” For the following class sessions, inspired by the story, students will be paired to compose their own stories based on the cranes seen in the pattern on the kimono. Each two students will also design a book cover or illustration for their story.

Procedures:

1. Students will be introduced to the kimono of this Object Guide and describe the imagery found on the kimono.
2. Students will watch a Japanese children's fairy tale, titled *The Grateful Crane*.
3. Students will discuss the fairy tale, its characters, its symbolic presentation of the crane, and its overall meaning.
4. Students will create their own stories based on the cranes on the kimono.
5. Students will design book covers or illustrations for their crane stories.
6. Each pair will present their stories and covers/illustrations to the class.



The Grateful Crane



Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes



Japanese Wave Pattern