

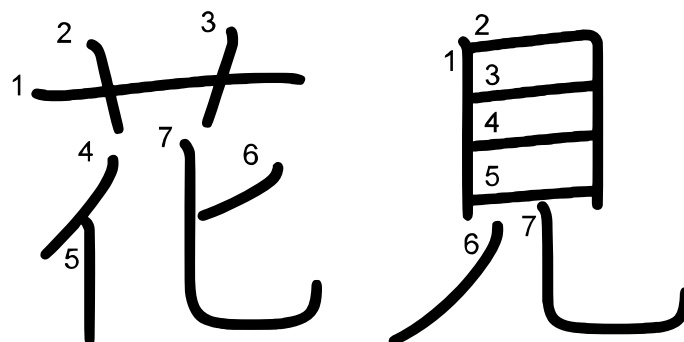


# TEACHING TUESDAY

## KANJI: HANAMI

MARCH 21, 2017

Japan's famous sakura (cherry blossom) flowers bloom all over the country starting from March and continuing through early May. The Japanese people, together with friends, family members, and co-workers, often enjoy hosting a picnic under the cherry blossom trees to take in the beauty of these flowers. This tradition, known as *hanami* (花見), began in the Edo period and continues to be a popular social event for people of all ages. The first kanji is flower, or hana (花), which is made up of two radicals. The first radical at the top of the character is 艹, which means grass, the second radical on the left is 匕, meaning to change or transform. So flowers are the part of a plant 艹 that changes 匕 most conspicuously. The second kanji, 見, means "to see" or "to view." So the next time you plan to have a hanami, think of the activity as "viewing flowers!"



Meaning: cherry blossom viewing; flower viewing