

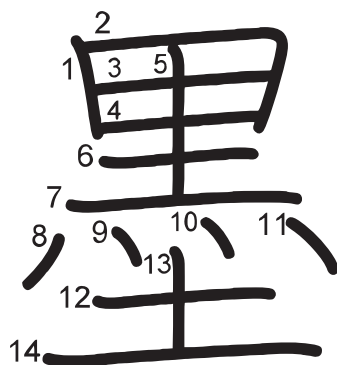


# TEACHING TUESDAY

## KANJI: SUMI

APRIL 24, 2018

Sumi, 墨, is the black ink used in calligraphy and sumi-e paintings. It is a combination of tsuchi, 土, meaning soil or earth, and kuro, 黒, meaning black. Sumi ink is made from the soot of burned pine branches which is then combined with animal glue, kneaded, and left to dry as small bricks. It is rehydrated by adding water to an ink stone and gently rubbing the ink brick on the wet stone until the proper consistency is created. Originally, ink paintings were of kanji characters or religious poems. Gradually, ink painting expanded to include landscapes, portraits, and pictures of animals and nature. If you run out of ink, why not visit Nara, Japan? Nara is home to many traditional ink makers and produces over 90% of sumi ink in Japan!



**Reading:** すみ (soo-mee)

**Meaning:** ink