



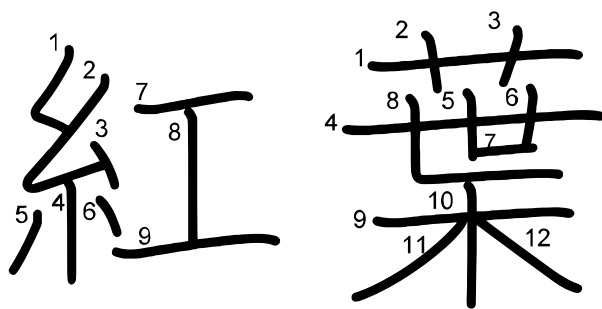
TEACHING TUESDAY

KANJI: KŌYŌ

OCTOBER 9, 2018

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The Japanese tradition of viewing sakura in the spring is well known worldwide, but viewing fall foliage is also a popular tradition practiced in Japan. This tradition known as kōyō (紅葉), or the changing of leaves, began as early as the Heian Period (794-1185), where scenes of “hunting” for beautiful autumn foliage appeared in 8th century poetry and most prominently in the classical novel, The Tale of Genji. Kōyō is derived from 紅, “red or crimson,” and 葉, “leaf.” Sometimes this compound is also read as momiji, which refers to the leaves themselves, specifically the bright red leaves of the Japanese maple tree. Kōyō is commonly practiced by taking a drive or riding a train to the countryside to see the changing leaves.



Reading: こうよう koh-oh-yoh
or もみじ moh-mee-jee

Meaning: the changing of
leaves or the colored leaves
themselves