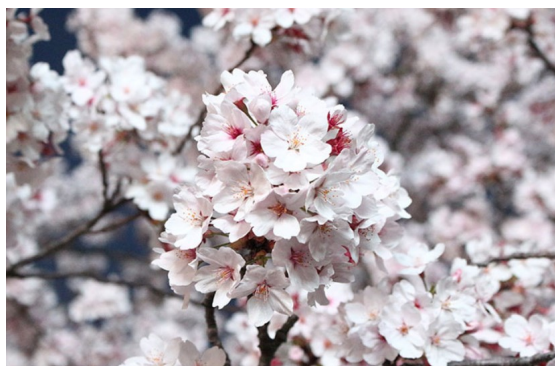




**Spring Time: Cherry Blossoms**



Spring is one of the best times to travel to Asia as the trees turn pink and cherry blossom trees float through the wind.

Cherry blossoms symbolise a time of renewal, and the fleeting nature of life. Their life is very short. After their beauty peaks around two weeks, the blossoms start to fall.



Whilst Sakura (cherry blossom in Japanese), is more commonly associated with Japan, it is equally spectacular in China.

Some of the best places to see them in China are Yuyuatang Park (Beijing), Gucun Forest Park (Shanghai), Tortoise Head Garden (Wuxi) and Million Sunflower Garden (Guangzhou).





L.O. Use controlled breathing to create a branching tree effect.



Our trees pictures will need a bit of practice to get right. The idea is to start with a small drop of thin black paint at the bottom of the paper and 'chase' it upwards, using only the power of your breath.

Use a short piece of straw to blow a **steady** flow of air onto the paint, keeping your face low down near the table and the end of the straw close to the end of the paint as it moves up the paper.

Try to encourage the paint to change direction now and again, and go back to any wet parts of branches and blow them sideways to make smaller twigs.



Try the technique in your Art Sketch book or cartridge paper first, before chasing a tree up your colour-washed background.  
**Remember:** smooth, steady blowing; keep your head low; and follow the paint with the end of the straw.



Once you have the tree trunk and branches ready, you will need to paint the blossom.

Mix two or three different pinks using squeeze poster paint in a paint palette, using red and white.

Use a paint brush to paint blossom on the branches - use different shades of pink and make the petals different sizes, scattering them around the branches and twigs.

