

The Cherry Trees of Washington D.C



What would be the first **symbol** that would come into your mind when you think of Washington D.C.? You will probably **wonder** and try to remember famous places there. Some of these figures would be the monuments, the White House, the Capitol, and the Library of Congress. However, have you ever thought of the **living things** that play a major tourist attraction in Washington D.C?

More and more international tourists and Americans as well make a special day visit to Washington D.C. each spring season to **witness** the blooming pink and white Japanese Cherry trees that is **encircling** the Tidal Basin and the Jefferson Memorial. All the Cherry trees were originally planted as a gift from the people of Tokyo, Japan during 1912. And Japan gave more than 3,000 trees in 12 different **varieties** of **ornamental** and flowering Cherry trees to the U.S. capital city as a gift of friendship.



However, in 1910, a **previous** donation of 2,000 Cherry trees had to be **destroyed** after they were **infested** with insects. And each spring season, the National Cherry Blossom Festival, which is a two-week long celebration from March 20 to April 14 that **attracts tens of thousands** of visitors from all around the globe just to see the **stunning** view of the Cherry trees in **full bloom** and giving the area an **array** of pink during National Cherry Blossom Festival.

Vocabulary:

Symbol – sign or representation

Wonder – think

Living things – that has life

Witness – to see

Encircling – surrounding

Varieties – variations, selections

Ornamental – decorative or attractive

Previous – earlier

Destroyed – ruined or demolished

Infested – pest-ridden

Attracts – draws attention

Tens of thousands – used as exaggeration, no exact numbers but so much more

Stunning – magnificent, too beautiful

Full bloom – a tree is covered by its flower

Array – display of

