

Japanese Folding Fans (also known as sensu or ogi)

Grade Level: K-6

Goal of the lesson plan: Students will learn about the cultural background and history of Japanese folding fans and create a simple Japanese folding fan using inspiration from the natural world.



The Martin House has a number of Japanese-inspired architectural elements and Japanese woodblock prints which have inspired this lesson. Much of the prints include imagery of nature (birds, trees, mountains) and daily life.

The History of Japanese Fans: Sensu were often a symbol of rank and status. The type of fan a person carried was a reflection and indication of her social standing. These fans were both beautiful and functional, which are fundamental Japanese design elements. Many sensu depicted natural elements and were made of paper, bamboo, wood, and/or thread.

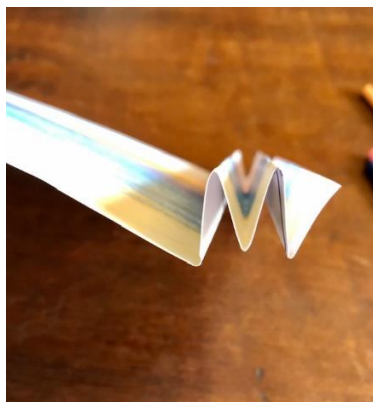
Part 1: Take a walk or look outside your window. Is there anything that inspires you? Pay attention to things you can see, hear, touch, and smell. Choose one or two elements that you would like to draw.

Part 2: Design!

- On an 8.5 x 11 piece of paper, draw your designs on each side. Remember that you will be folding the paper, so big, bold shapes will work well.



- Beginning on the shorter side, fold the paper half an inch, flipping it over each time. Once you've reached the end, hold the paper long ways and fold it in on itself.



**Martin
House**

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT | ARCHITECT

- Use tape to secure the two inside folds and enjoy your completed fan!



Extra Challenge?

- Add streamers to the sides of your fan for extra decoration and movement.
- Consider using natural elements. On walks outside, collect leaves and flowers and see if you can't use them to create (or add on to) a folded fan.

Vocabulary:

Japanese design

Nature

Organic

Functionality

Beauty

Materials:

Printer paper

Coloring utensils

Tape