

**NATIONAL BONSAI &  
PENJING MUSEUM  
ACTIVITY  
BOOK**

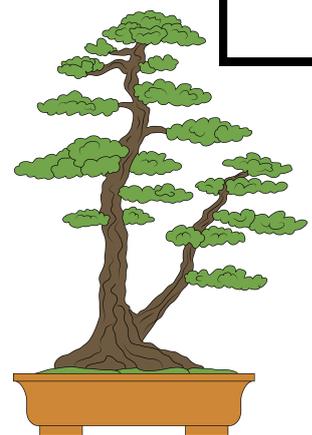
**This Book Belongs to:**



The National Bonsai and Penjing Museum's collection has trees from Japan, China, and North America. **Bonsai** is the Japanese art of growing and shaping tiny trees in containers to look like full-sized trees. **Penjing** is the ancient Chinese art of creating mini landscapes using trees, plants, rocks, and soil arranged in a container.



Find and label Japan and China on the map.



# BONSAI SCAVENGER HUNT



**Find and draw the  
oldest tree in the  
collection**



**Find and draw a tree  
that is not an  
evergreen tree**



**Find and draw a  
formal upright style  
bonsai**



**Find and draw a  
multi-trunk  
bonsai**



# DESIGN A BONSAI

Now that we've found some cool bonsai, it's time to design our own! Using everything you've observed at the museum, design your own bonsai or penjing.



**DRAW YOUR DESIGN HERE**



Some of the trees in the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum have been taken care of since the 1600s. That means many different people have cared for them over time. Think about everything someone might need to know to take care of your tree for that long and create a care sheet with instructions.



# TRACE AND COPY

The word bonsai comes from Japan. It means “planting in a tray” because bonsai grow in small pots. The kanji symbol 盆 (bon) means basin or tray and the symbol 栽 (sai) means planting. Trace the characters below and then try writing them on your own!

盆

栽



# TRACE AND COPY

The word penjing comes from China. It means “pot landscape” because these miniature trees and rocks create tiny scenes. The hanzi symbol 盆 (pen) means pot and the symbol 景 (jing) means landscape. Trace the characters below and then try writing them on your own!

盆 景



# WORD SEARCH



O A H L X Z B R N P X R E H K B X K C Z  
A U P N H C S Y J G U K W B U C M G T I  
Y A E A L W N B K P H O S I X G U S N S  
M C N P C R A B A P P L E W V U T S N C  
T I O A E O W C H R Y S A N T H E M U M  
H R T J D L O G X L P I K M A J R E H J  
G E S H A O G F W B T X I S K S O B E I  
I M G V C T K E Y P P P O R X W B B L K  
R A N F S J N Z I Q A X G J Q A R U M F  
P H I S A U I R T M L V Q L O S A J E A  
U T W L C N G G O O L F V E U H L Q B W  
L R E F Z I H U W S B V G P E I A M I E  
A O I R Q P F A L W Z K Z M C N N Q P J  
M N V N H E I R L U C N O V U G O V E S  
R Z M U U R T G K P V H Q D R T I Z N V  
O X V X P F O R E S T E I M P O T O J E  
F Q B O N S A I Y Q N X G N S N A M I L  
J F T Y B H M B Y T E I Z L A D N E N P  
V C Z A F H M E S P I N E Q F C B Q G A  
K P O G I V C Y P R E S S S X R R I H M

**Can you find all the hidden words?**

Bonsai  
Cascade  
China  
Chrysanthemum  
Crabapple

Cypress  
Elm  
Forest  
Formal Upright  
Ginkgo

Japan  
Juniper  
Maple  
National Arboretum  
North America

Penjing  
Pine  
Spruce  
Viewing Stone  
Washington DC





# WRITE A BONSAI HAIKU!

A haiku is a short poem from Japan. It has 3 lines and a special pattern:

Line 1: 5 syllables

Line 2: 7 syllables

Line 3: 5 syllables

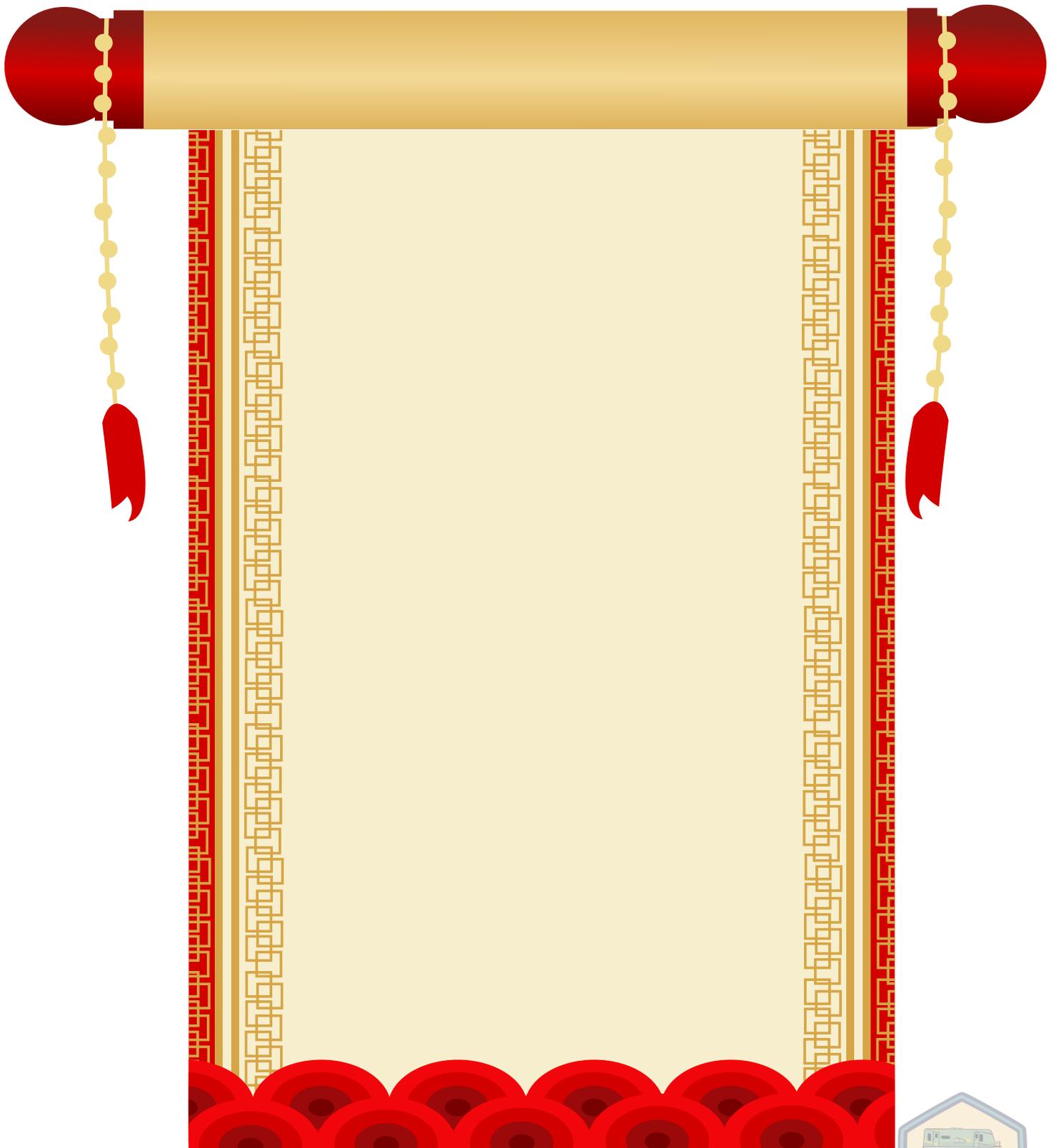
Syllables are the beats in a word.

Try clapping the beats in these words: bon-sai (2), tree(1), pen-jing(2).



*Tiny twisting trees (5),  
Standing strong  
through sun and storm  
(7),  
A forest so small (5)*

Now it's your turn! Write a haiku about  
bonsai or penjing. You can describe how  
they make you feel, how they look, or how  
they grow.



# CONNECT THE DOTS

