

Some Facts about China

Did you know that:

Symbols play an important part in Chinese life and reveal a great deal about how the Chinese related to the cosmos and all of nature around them?

Four flowers: the peony, the lotus, the plum blossom and the chrysanthemum have a very special role. These flowers represent the four seasons of the year.

The peony represents spring.

The lotus symbolizes summer.

The chrysanthemum is linked to autumn.

The plum blossom is the flower of winter.

- The lotus (*lian-hua*) is a symbol of purity. In Buddhism, the fruit of the lotus, the flower and the stalk symbolize the past, the present and the future. The blue lotus blossom (*qing*) stands for cleanliness and modesty.
- The peony (*mu-dan*) is the symbol of maidenhood. It is also the Queen of flowers, and emblem of wealth and destruction.
- The plum blossom (*mei; li*) is the symbol of virginity. The five petals symbolize the five gods of good luck.
- The chrysanthemum (*ju*) is the symbol for long life and duration.