

Kimono Symbolism:

Floral Motifs:



Bellflower (*Kikyo*) a white flower, with five petals serves as the symbol of unchanging love, honesty, and obedience



Cherry Blossom (*Sakura*) has distinctive notched petals, and blooms briefly and is a very fragile flower. Symbolizes new beginnings, renewal (early spring), beauty, and transience [briefness/shortness] of life



Iris (*Kakitsubata*) symbolizes protection from evil spirits.



Peony (*Botan*) is known as the ‘King of the Flowers’ and symbolizes good fortune (wealthy), high honor (nobility) and ageless beauty.



Pine Tree (*Matsu*) symbolizes longevity, steadfastness and wisdom in age. It is associated with winter and New Year.



Paulownia Tree (*Kiri*) a fast growing tree with foxglove-like purple flowers and the only tree the Phoenix will alight upon. Planted when a baby girl is born, the wood is used for fashion articles for her dowry. Traditional national symbol often seen in many family crests.



Wisteria (*Fuji*) signifies love and is used often in family crests



Plum Blossom (*Ume*) Identified by rounded petals. It is the first flower to bloom in the spring and is known as the 'Flower of Peace'. Acts as a protective charm against evil, represents longevity, renewal and perseverance.



Chrysanthemum (*Kiku*) Symbol of regal beauty, rejuvenation, and longevity. Used as the Imperial Seal of Japan.

Patterns:



Seigaiha is a pattern of overlapping circles, symbolizing waves and the ebb and flow of life.



Shippo is an infinitely repeating circular design representing the seven jewels or treasures from the Buddhist Sutras.



Hexagons represent the pattern on a tortoise shell and symbolizes longevity and good fortune. Traditional inspiration for Samurai armor designs.

Other Symbols:



Peacock (*Kujaku*) this bird is associated with love, good will, nurturing and a kind heart



Cranes (*Tsuru*) they are believed to live for a thousand years and inhabit the land of the immortals. They symbolize longevity and good fortune. A pair of them represents a happy marriage.



Drum (*Taiko*) A drum represents joy, ivy growing over a drum is used to signify peace.



Scrolls represents learning, knowledge and a cultured life.



Mountains (*Yama*) Depicts sacred places between heaven and earth. Birds flying over mountains signify overcoming life's challenges.



Rive (*Kawa*) or winding stream represents continuity and the future.

Information from: <https://www.huntedandstuffed.com/pages/kimono-symbol-meanings>