

The Same, *but Different*

Let's take a look
at two lotus
flowers at
The Huntington



THE HUNTINGTON
Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens

Huntington Education

The Same, but Different

The goal of this activity is to provide an opportunity for elementary school students to evaluate two objects at The Huntington.

While the objects are the same—maybe through title, material, or function—they can also be different, perhaps through time period, culture, or form.

Here's the format:

- Look closely at both images
- Explore the terms
- Sort the terms on the Venn diagram
- Check your answers
- Learn about each object
- Questions and activity



Lotus, 1633, ink and color on paper. From the *Ten Bamboo Studio Manual of Calligraphy and Painting* 竹齋書畫譜, compiled and edited by Hu Zhengyan 胡正言. The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. [Zoom in to this artwork](#)

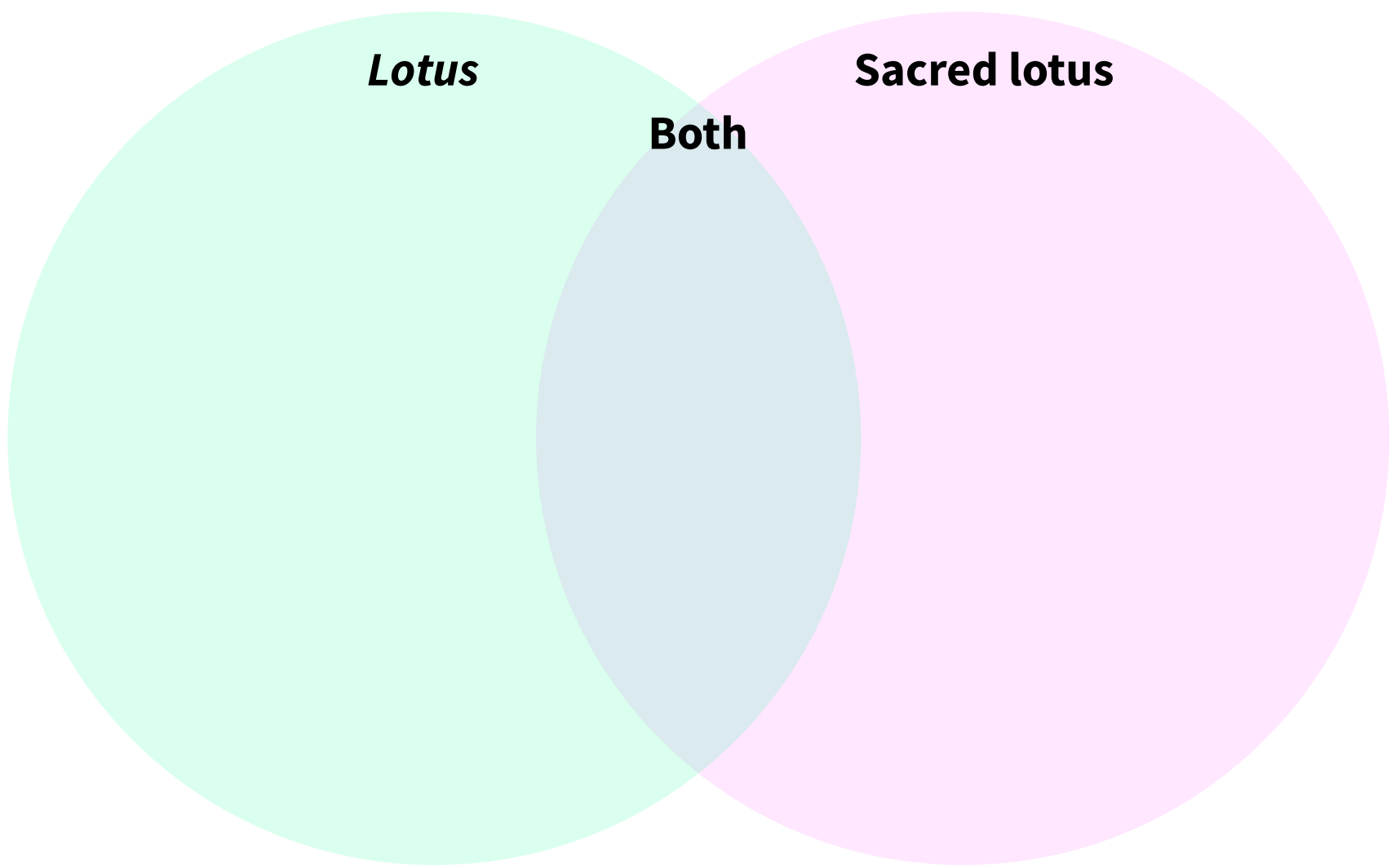


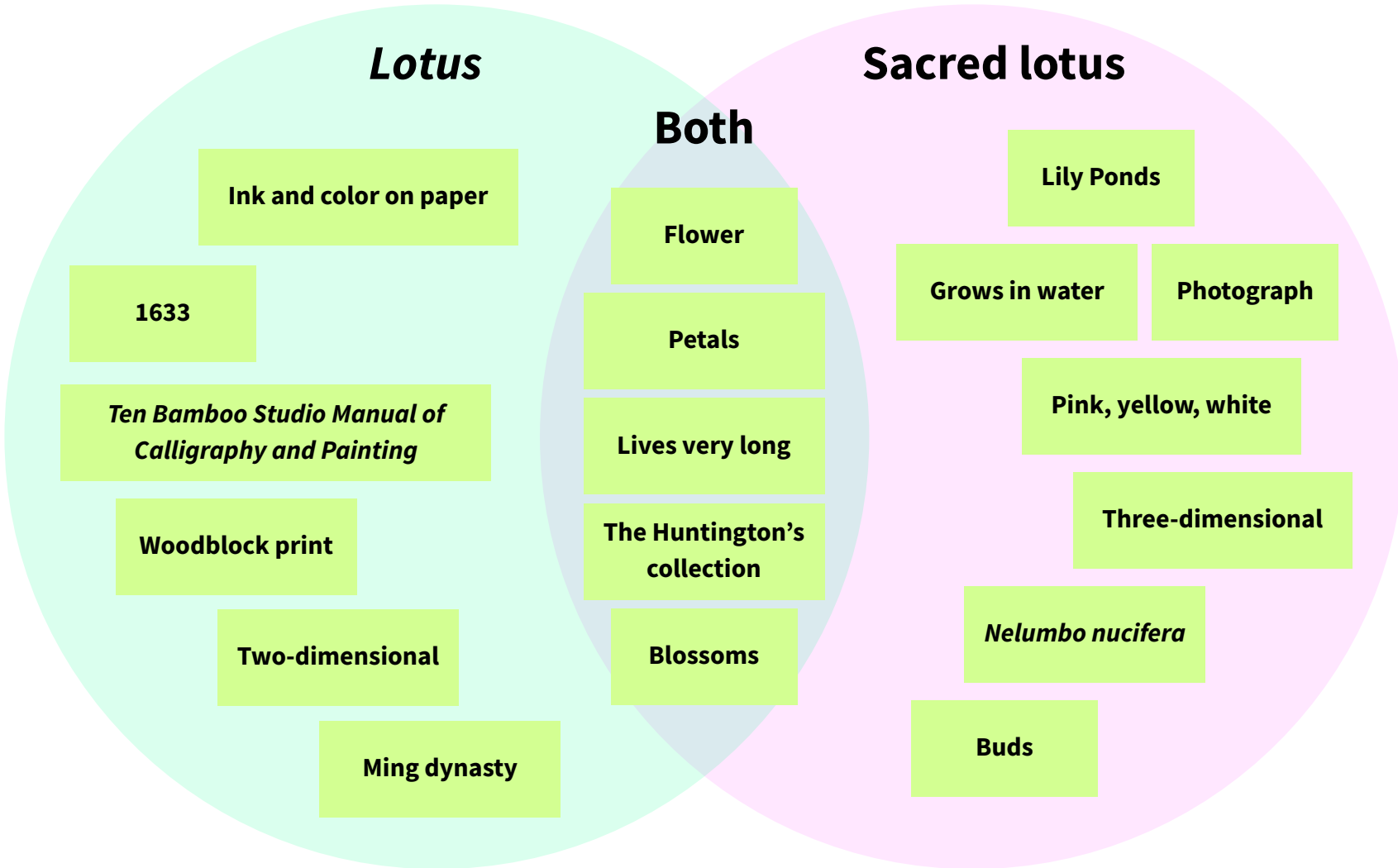
Sacred lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*) in the Lily Ponds, 2015. The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. [Zoom in to this photograph](#)

Review the terms that describe **both** images. Which facts go in the **same** area of the diagram? Which facts go in each **different** area of the diagram?



Time to sort!





Lotus

Ink and color on paper

1633

Ten Bamboo Studio Manual of Calligraphy and Painting

Woodblock print

Two-dimensional

Ming dynasty

Both

Flower

Petals

Lives very long

The Huntington's collection

Blossoms

Sacred lotus

Lily Ponds

Grows in water

Photograph

Pink, yellow, white

Three-dimensional

Nelumbo nucifera

Buds

Learn about the lotuses



- This illustration of a lotus flower is a woodblock print in the *Ten Bamboo Studio Manual of Calligraphy and Painting*. This book was made almost 400 years ago!
- The artist shows a lotus flower, but there's no background. Why do you think the background is blank?
- It took 14 years for this book to be created. It was a collaborative project, which means it was made by many different artists, calligraphers, writers, and printers who all worked together.



- Lotuses grow in two gardens at The Huntington: the [Lily Ponds](#) and the [Chinese Garden](#). This pink sacred lotus can be found in the Lily Ponds.
- The Lily Ponds are also home to ducks, koi, frogs, and turtles.
- When a lotus blooms, the petals can open as wide as 9 inches! You can use a ruler to see how long this is.
- Lotuses always grow in water. The roots and part of the stems grow underwater. Part of the stems, the flower, leaves, and seeds grow above water.

- What did you notice about object 1, *Lotus*?
- What did you notice about object 2, sacred lotus?
- How are they the same?
- How are they different?
- What did you learn?
- Which lotus do you like best? Why?

Activity



Mindful Moment with a Lotus

Materials: Music (optional)

Time: 5 minutes

Steps:

1. Make sure you are seated in a comfortable position. Relax your head, neck, and shoulders. Rest your hands on your lap, a table, or someplace comfortable.
2. Let's start by taking three deep breaths in and out.
3. Now imagine you are down by the Lily Ponds at The Huntington. You see the vibrant green colors of the grass. Reach out and touch the grass. What does it feel like? Soft? Wet? Scratchy?
4. Now take a deep breath in with your nose. What does the air smell like? Sweet? Crisp? Fresh? Think about all the different smells as you continue to breathe in and out, in and out.
5. Let's move our attention to the lotus flower bobbing in the water. You see the bright orange koi swimming in the water and the splash of a turtle. Imagine you are the lotus anchored in the water. You are attached to the bottom mud in the water, but your arms or petals can sway in the wind. Slowly and carefully move your body to the wind. You can rock back and forth and side to side.
6. Now slow your body and come back to stillness. Take in one final deep breath and exhale like the lotus flower opening and blooming. Slowly open your eyes. Thank you for taking this mindful moment.

We would love to see your work!

Please take a picture of your Venn diagram.

Then post it on social media and tag The Huntington!

#LearnAtTheH

