

### **A Symbol of Friendship**



*In 1912, First Lady Helen Taft and Iwa Chinda, wife of Japanese ambassador Sutei Chinda, oversaw the planting of the first cherry trees, a gift from Japan, around the Washington, DC, Tidal Basin. This spring, the annual National Cherry Blossom Festival celebrates the 100th anniversary of this first planting.*

*Following the history of goodwill symbols can tell you a lot about how international relations change over time. Are these statements about the cherry trees True or False?*

1. Vandals cut down four DC cherry trees on December 11, 1941.  
 True                       False
2. In 1952, the U.S. refused to supply Tokyo, Japan, with budwood to help it revive cherry trees neglected during World War II.  
 True                       False
3. In 1954, the U.S. received a 300-year-old stone lantern as a gift from Japan, to be placed among the cherry trees.  
 True                       False
4. The 2011 National Cherry Blossom Festival made no official acknowledgement of the disastrous earthquake and tsunami in Japan.  
 True                       False