



Topics for Research and Discussion

1. Research other stories about friendship between a dog and a human. Read for example the story of *Hachiko*, a real-life *Akita* famous in Japan for his loyalty to his owner, in:
 - *Hachiko, the True Story of a Loyal Dog* by Pamela S. Turner (Houghton Mifflin, 2004)
 - *Hachiko Waits* by Leslea Newman (Henry Holt, 2004)
2. Research the following animals native to Japan.
 - *Akita Dog*
 - *Iriomote Cat*
 - Snow Monkey (Japanese Macaque)
3. Find out more about the history of the cherry trees from Japan in Washington, DC by going to the official website of the National Cherry Blossom Festival. (<http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org>)
4. What is your State flower and State tree? How were they chosen, and what do people do to celebrate them?

