Student Handout 1

Japanese Mon (family crests)

Mon are symbolic artistic emblems adapted by Japanese individuals, families, or groups. They appear on almost anything—clothing, buildings, luggage, banners, and fans. Several people pictured in the Equestrian Archery Drill slides painting wear clothing decorated with mon. Their usage might be compared to American clothing marked with a brand icon, such as the Nike swoosh, except the *mon* represents the identity of the wearer, not a commercial product.