



Komainu are mythical creatures (part lion, part dog). They love a good pet and don't mind being sat on if you want to take a picture - just make sure you're gentle with them.



In Japanese, frogs are called kaeru, which also means "to return". We hope you return to Portland Japanese Garden again! It looks different in every season so there's always something new to see.



In the 1950s, the mayor of the City of Yokohama, Japan, gave Portland this lantern with the message: casting the light of everlasting peace.

the garden!

DEER CHASER ししおどし

Despite its English name, this object doesn't actually "chase" deer. It surprises them so they don't munch on the plants in



CRANES

The crane, or tsuru, symbolizes peace and hope. It's been said that if you fold a thousand origami cranes, you can make a wish and it will come true. What wish would you make?



Portland has a sister city in Japan named Sapporo, which is an official way of saying we're friends. This lantern is 18-feet tall. The stones in the front are a map of the Japanese island of Hokkaido. Thank you for helping protect the moss by not stepping on it!



Did you know koi fish symbolize courage and determination? There is an old legend about a koi who swam upstream through powerful waterfalls and turned into a dragon. Which koi is your favorite?



The sculpture features a jizo, known as a protector of children. Throughout Japan, you'll see statues of jizo, often wearing a red cap and bib. Have you seen the movie My Neighbor Totoro? When Mei gets lost, she stands next to a jizo to keep her safe!

JIZO

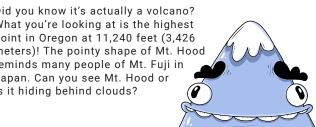


People think the way the stones are placed here tells a story. A popular one is of Buddha helping a hungry tiger and her cubs when they got trapped in a ravine. What do you think the stones are doing?



Did you know it's actually a volcano? What you're looking at is the highest point in Oregon at 11,240 feet (3,426 meters)! The pointy shape of Mt. Hood reminds many people of Mt. Fuji in Japan. Can you see Mt. Hood or is it hiding behind clouds?







GOURD AND CIRCLE ISLANDS ひょうたんとわっか

These "islands" of moss in the Flat Garden kind of look like a gourd (a large fruit) and a circle, which are symbols of happiness in Japan! What makes you happy?

