



# K for Kinkaku-ji



## Fun Facts

1. **The lowest level**, The Chamber of Dharma Daters, uses the shinden-zukuri style which resembled the imperial home style from the 11th century Japan. Shutters are used as walls which help to vary the light and air coming in.
2. **The middle level**, The Tower of Sound Waves, uses the buke-zukuri style with sliding wood doors and latticed windows to house a shrine and Buddha Hall.
3. **The top level** is built in the traditional Chinese zen style and is called the Cupola of the Ultimate.



Colour me in





# Kinkaku-ji



Kinkaku-ji, or The Golden Pavilion, is a Zen Buddhist temple in Kyoto, Japan that dates to 1397. It is called this because the top two stories of the building is covered in gold leaf that catches the sunlight and reflects across the pond that it is built on. The pavilion is part of a Japanese strolling garden and there is a strong connection between the pavilion and the garden, bringing the view of the garden into the pavilion and by extending the pavilion out onto the pond.

This building has three distinct architectural styles for each of its three floors which are the shinden, samurai and zen.

## Ornament

In architecture, an ornament is any embellishment element that has been added to the structure for decorative purposes. The ornaments are inspired by nature, religion, art, geometry, etc.

Here you can find the Kinkaku-JI's ornament at the top of the roof, a Fenghuang, (a chinese phoenix) known in Japanese as Hō-ō. Fenghuang is a symbol of high virtue and grace in Japanese culture.



## Activity

Design an ornament for your house!

### Challenge 1

Design an ornament inspired by the human figure.

### Challenge 2

Design an ornament inspired by nature.