

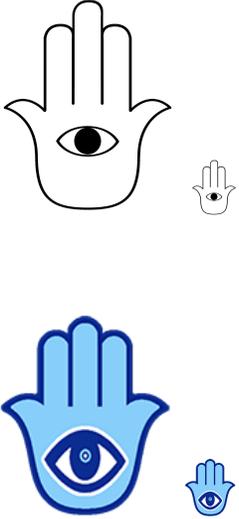
Hamsa Emoji Proposal

Emoji Submitter: O'Plérou Grebet, Anshuman Pandey, and Jennifer Daniel

To: Unicode Technical Committee

Date: November 10, 2019 | Last Updated: August 6, 2020

I. Identification and II. Images

Sample Image	Proposed Unicode and CLDR name	Possible CLDR English keywords	Closest Unicode Emoji
	hamsa	Hamsa, protection, amulet, evil, hand, good luck, helping hand	

Other-object



and/or

Hand-fingers-open



IV. Selection factors — Inclusion

A. Compatibility

n/a

B. Expected use

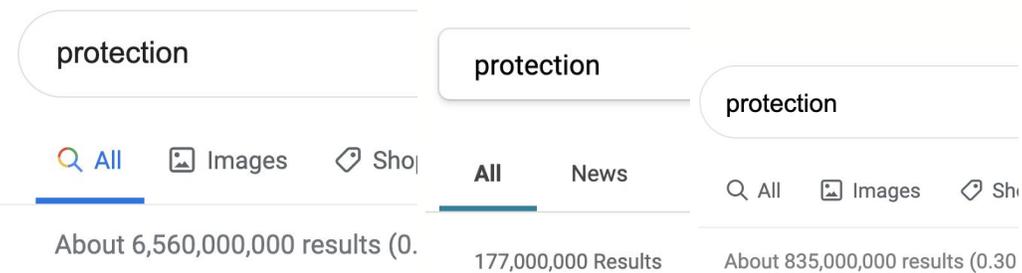
1. Frequency

HAMSA  frequency data is below our median threshold but due to HAMSA's potential as a long standing image and ancient historical and cross-cultural concept that pairs well with high-frequent expressions in a popular emoji category (hands) we feel it will be a welcome addition.

Search term	Google Search	Bing Search	Google Video Search	Google Trends: Web	Google Trends: Image
hamsa	31,200,000	4,420,000	911,000	See below	See below
protection	6,560,000,000	177,000,000	835,000,000	See below	See below
hand-of-mary	979,000,000	2,370,000	36,100,000	See below	See below



Above: Google Search, Bing Search, Google video



Above: Google Search, Bing Search, Google video

hand-of-mary

ALL IMAGES

About 979,000,000 results

hand-of-mary

All Images Shopping Videos

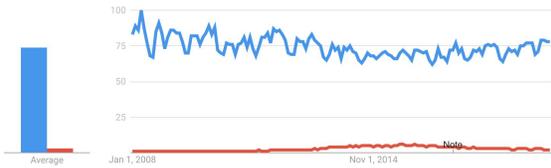
About 36,100,000 results (0.31 seconds)

Above: Google Search, Bing Search, Google video

elephant Search term hamsa Search term + Add comparison

Worldwide 2008 - present All categories Image Search

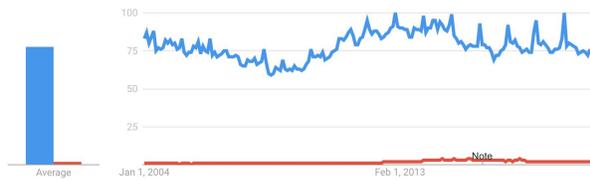
Interest over time ?



elephant Search term hamsa Search term + Add comparison

Worldwide 2004 - present All categories Web Search

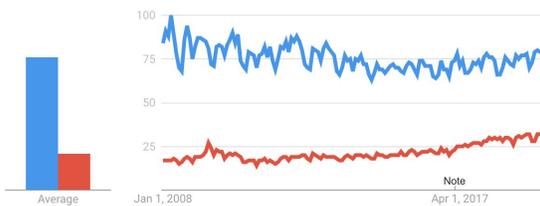
Interest over time ?



elephant Search term protection Search term +

Worldwide 2008 - present All categories Image Search

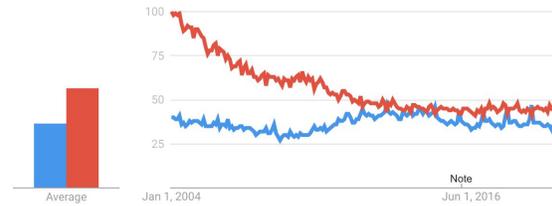
Interest over time ?



elephant Search term protection Search term +

Worldwide 2004 - present All categories Web Search

Interest over time ?



2. Multiple usages

HAMSA  has been used for at least three thousand years as a protective and auspicious symbol. Its has several meanings to a multitude of cultures. Some of these are:

- **Luck** - Although originally a sacred symbol, the HAMSA  is used in secular and popular contexts as a 'good luck' charm.
- **Guidance** - The HAMSA  represents a 'guiding hand' or a 'helpful hand' that leads towards safety and prosperity. In such contexts it is often referred to as the 'hand of god'.
- **Trust** - The symbol also carries the metaphor of 'trust' or 'bond'. In this sense it is often used as illumination in Jewish marriage contracts, or כתובה ketubah.
- **Feminine power** - It is a symbol of feminine divinity. Being originally associated with the mother goddess, it also represents 'fertility' and 'motherly protection'. In Judaism, it is associated with Miriam, the sister of Moses and Aaron, and known alternately as the 'Hand of Miriam'. In Islam, it is linked to Fatima, the daughter of Muhammad, and known as the 'Hand of Fatima'. Levantine Christians refer to the symbol as the 'Hand of Mary', a reference to the mother of Jesus.
- **Faith** - The symbol also represents 'faith' and the guiding principles of faith. Drawing upon its numerical metaphor, the HAMSA  signifies the 'Five Pillars' of Islam and also the five books of the Torah in Judaism.
- **Unity** - Drawing upon its spiritual metaphors, the HAMSA  is used as a symbol of unity for Christians, Jews, and Muslims and civic harmony in the Middle East.
- **National pride** - As it is intertwined with culture and society, the HAMSA  is used as a symbol of the nation. In Algeria, the symbol appears on the national emblem.

3. Use in sequences

The HAMSA  may be used for expressing multiple meanings in sequences with other emoji, as shown in the categories below. It may also be used in sequences with emoji across these categories. See images below in section D. Completeness.

- With one or more of VICTORY HAND 🏆 PERSON WITH FOLDED HANDS 🙏 PEACE SYMBOL ☮️ RAINBOW 🌈 RED HEART ❤️ and a number of smileys to express sentiments of positivity, prosperity, and peace.
- With one or more MENORAH 🕯️ STAR OF DAVID ✨ LATIN CROSS ✝️ STAR AND CRESCENT 🌙 WHEEL OF DHARMA 🌀 YIN-YANG ☯️ etc. to express sentiments of a particular faith, or in combination with more than one to convey interfaith understanding or universal spirituality.
- With a flag to express national unity or with multiple flags to convey cross-cultural understanding between nations, such as ALGERIA 🇩🇿 ISRAEL 🇮🇱 PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES 🇵🇸 UNITED STATES 🇺🇸, etc.
- By itself or with FOUR LEAF CLOVER 🍀 FINGERS CROSSED 🙌 FALLING STAR ✨, NAZAR AMULET 🌀 to express 'good luck'.

4. Breaking new ground

C. Image distinctiveness

HAMSA 🤚 is differentiated from existing hand related emojis on account of its structure and detail. The basic structure of the HAMSA is an abstract open hand facing the observer, with an eye positioned on the palm. The hand may be oriented upwards or downwards. It typically symmetrical, but asymmetrical forms are also used. In both forms, the second, third, and fourth digits are joined and extended, with the third digit longer than the others. When symmetrical, the thumb and fifth digit have the same shape and position, and are truncated and curved outward. When asymmetrical, the thumb is differentiated from the fifth digit by its position or increased size or curvature, or a combination of these attributes. The iconic and traditional form contains an eye motif placed in the center of the palm. The eye is depicted using the contours of the eyelids, iris, and pupil. In some cases, the eye is replaced with another symbol that is culturally significant.

Conceptually it offers us a symbol of protection, one that has been used many times throughout history. It has roots in Ancient Egypt or Carthage (modern-day Tunisia) and in Islam and Judaism is believed to provide defense against the evil eye.

It is derived from the Arabic word *خمسة* *khamsah* and a term for the 'hand' by reference to its five digits. It is known in Hebrew as *חמשה* *chamsah*.



(Above) Caption

D. Completeness

The addition of HAMSA 🖐️ would extend the repertoire of emoji for cultural, religious, and ‘good luck’ and religious symbols without conforming to the standard “purple square” design format.



VI. Selection factors — Exclusion

F. Overly specific

No

G. Open-ended

No, this is not part of a set of similar items.

H. Already representable

No.

I. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

Not applicable. There are no logos, brands, signage or otherwise among the proposed characters.

J. Transient

Not applicable.

K. Faulty comparison

Justification for encoding the proposed emoji does not depend on analogy with other emoji that were encoded only for compatibility reasons.

L. Exact Images

An exact image is not required.

VIII. Reference Documents

- <https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2015/15309-hamsa-symbol.pdf>
- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B92AOqanSqkJOG52M2lxbV9XWUk/view>
- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KB7GaHYiL5-Uh7WoYQSoD6RI4SstYxad/view>