

Bringing the Museum Home: Japanese Children's Day

In Japan, the 5th day of the 5th month is traditionally celebrated as Children's Day. Originally called *tango no sekku*, families celebrated the health and happiness of boys and expressed thanks to fathers. It became a national holiday in 1948, but it has been a day of celebration in Japan since ancient times. Today, the holiday celebrates boys and girls.

On the 5th of May, across Japan families, with children fly carp fish-shaped streamers called *koinobori* outside their homes. The carp symbolises strength and success. According to legend, a carp swam upstream and became transformed into a dragon. Parents hope that their children will be strong and determined like the carp.



Carp streamers



You can make your own carp streamer!

1. Print the carp streamer template, or try drawing your own. Using coloured pens or paper, colour in or stick on lots of fish scales. Don't forget to add an eye too.
2. Then roll the paper into a tube so it looks like a fish.
3. Using a hole punch, make two holes near the top and thread a piece of wool or string through. Attach the fish to a straw or pencil.
4. With tissue paper or newspaper, make a fish tail by adding some long strips to the bottom edge of the fish.

