

KOINOBORI

Japan

Carp streamers are a popular decoration for **Kodomo no hi**, Japan's Children's Day celebration, which takes place every year on **May 5**.



Carp (*koi*) are believed to be strong and determined, a symbol of the wish for all children on this national holiday.



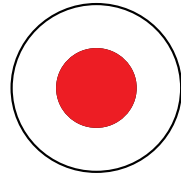
Families fly large carp windsocks from flagpoles and balconies before and after the holiday. Each flag represents a member of the family.

Traditionally the flags are hung by size, with the father carp flag (black) at the top of the pole, followed by the mother carp flag (red) and the children (blue and other colors).

EDUCATOR NOTES

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► Background

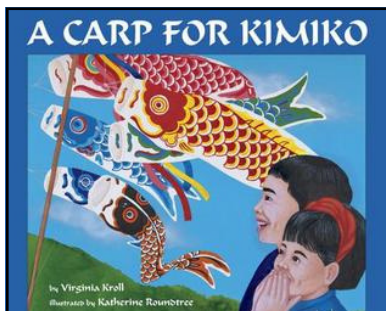
Until 1948, the holiday was called *Tango no Sekku* and only honored boys.

Hinamatsuri or *Doll Festival*, which falls on March 3rd, is a day to celebrate girls.

► Helpful Link

Koinobori Song <http://bit.ly/3njRu3d>

► Lit Connection



Every year on Children's Day in Japan, a kite in the shape of a carp is flown for each boy in the family. Kimiko desperately wants an orange, black, and white calico carp kite of her own to fly, but her parents remind her that there is a holiday just for girls—Doll's Day. This does not stop Kimiko from dreaming about and wishing for her very own carp. -Amazon



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Japan



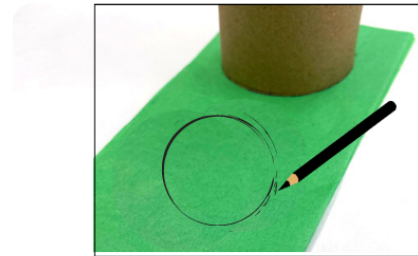
WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- empty paper towel or toilet paper roll
- tissue paper (choose colors for the scales)
- scissors
- black marker
- half sheet of white paper
- tape & double-sided tape
- yarn or string for hanging
- optional: wiggle eyes

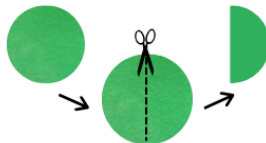
INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Make the carp's "scales."**
Trace the base of the paper roll onto the colored tissue paper.

Cut the circles.



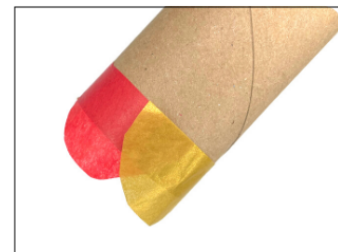
- 2** Fold the circles in half.
Cut along the crease to create two semi-circles.



Repeat with different colored tissue paper.



- 3** Wrap a piece of double-sided tape around the outside bottom of the paper roll.
Place the straight side of a tissue paper semi-circle on the tape so that the rounded side hangs off the end of the roll. This is the "tail" end of the carp.



continued...

- 4** Continue around the roll, overlapping the semi-circles as you go. Complete the carp's "scales" along the whole "body."



- 5** Cut strips of tissue paper for the "tail." Place double-sided tape inside the paper roll. Attach the strips all the way around the roll.



- 6** Add the eyes:
Draw and cut two small circles from a piece of white paper. Color smaller black circles for the pupils.

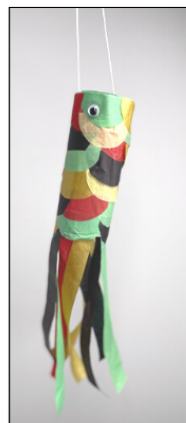


- 7** Cut a piece of string the length you want it to hang by. Place double-sided tape inside the "mouth" opposite the eyes.

Lay the ends of the strings on the tape.
Cover the strings with another piece of tape.



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"If we are to reach real peace in this world...we shall have to begin with the children." -*Mahatma Gandhi*

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