



THE  
JAPAN  
SOCIETY



# Hina-matsuri





# Hina-matsuri



A festival which celebrates **happiness**, **health** and the **growth** of young girls.

It is celebrated on **March 3** in Japan.

In Japanese, March 3 is :

三月三日

(third month, third day)

# What does Hina-matsuri mean?

Hina (ひな)  
means doll



Matsuri (祭り)  
means festival

So Hina-Matsuri means  
Doll Festival

# Why dolls?



400 years ago, people believed that dolls were lucky charms to ward off evil spirits.

So the tradition began to set up displays of dolls a few weeks before the festival begins.

# History of Hinamatsuri

Hina-matsuri is one of five seasonal festivals, known as **go-sekku** (ごせつく ; 五節句) from the Chinese calendar. Originally held on the third day of the third month, the date has been fixed in the modern calendar for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March every year.

The festival was originally known as the Peach Festival or **Momo no sekku** (もも : peach; せつく : festival) as peach trees displayed beautiful flowers around this time. In modern times, peaches are still considered to be a symbol of this festival. They are displayed as decorations due to their beauty and belief that they ward off evil spirits.



# What Is Hinamatsuri?

Hina-matsuri (ひなまつり) is a special celebration recognised in Japan annually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. On this day, platforms covered with red material display a beautiful set of dolls, which are ornamental and traditional in style.

These dolls represent the Emperor, Empress, attendants, musicians and ministers or protectors of Japanese royalty. The display traditionally represents a wedding from the Heian period.

Also known as Girls' Day or Dolls' Day, parents display these dolls to pray for the health and happiness of their daughters. Japanese people also celebrate by playing games, singing songs, and enjoying special foods and desserts.



# Special Customs



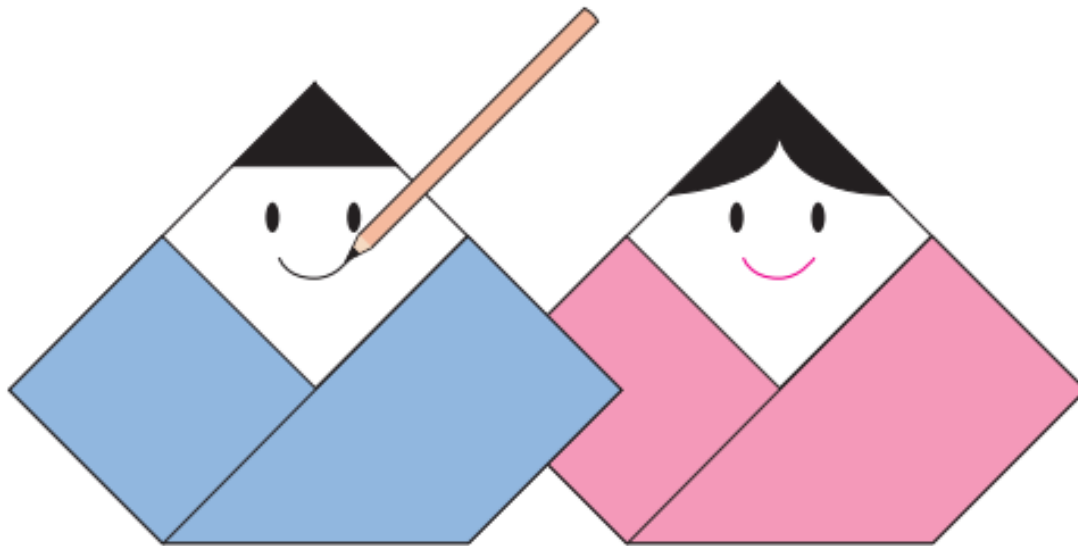
The dolls should be put away again as soon as the festival is over. If you leave them out, it is supposed to be bad luck.

Some people float paper dolls down the river, believing they will carry away bad luck with them.



# Activity

Make your own origami Japanese dolls.





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# Special Foods



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# Hina-matsuri Quiz



You will be divided into teams.

How many facts can you remember about Hina-matsuri?



# Hina-matsuri Quiz



What does 'hina' mean?	1 point
When is hinamatsuri?	1 point
Why do people celebrate Hinamatsuri?	2 points
Why should dolls be put away after the festival?	2 points
What colours are used for hinamatsuri foods?	up to 4 points



