



Hina Matsuri: Celebrating Girl's Day in Japan

Educational Guide

by
Girl Museum, Inc.



**Hina Matsuri:
Celebrating
Girls' Day in
Japan**

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Hina Matsuri: Celebrating Girl's Day in Japan

Hina Matsuri: Celebrating Girl's Day in Japan is an exhibition looking at the traditional celebration of Girl's Day in Japanese culture. Our exhibit takes a detailed look at the history, pop culture and traditions behind the festival, alongside memories from Japanese girls from across the globe.

This educational guide is designed for classroom use with students in primary/elementary school, secondary school and university settings. All the activities are designed for ease of copy and distribution to your students. Also noted are links to both the UK National Curriculum (pg. 4) and the US Common Core (pg. 5).



Discussion Questions

Students can answer the following questions on their own or discuss in groups.

Use details from the *Hina Matsuri: Celebrating Girl's Day in Japan* exhibition to help you answer the following questions.

1. What do the Hina Matsuri celebrations tell you about attitudes towards girls in Japanese culture?
2. What do the Hina Matsuri celebrations tell you about the lives of girls in Japan, today and in the past?
3. What role do traditions play in the Hina Matsuri festival? Are traditions important in cultural festivals near you?
4. How has popular culture impacted and changed the Girl's Day celebrations in Japan? Does popular culture have a place in other countries traditional celebrations?
5. What messages do you think the Girl's Day celebrations convey? Are these positive or negative for girls?

Hina Matsuri *Quiz*

1. When is Hina Matsuri?
 - a) Mid February
 - b) 3rd March
 - c) 3rd May
2. The word for Girl's Day in Japanese is *Hina Matsuri*. What does this actually mean?
 - a) Doll's festival
 - b) Emperor and Empress Day
 - c) Peach Festival
3. At the top of the doll display for Hina Matsuri are two dolls. Who are they?
 - a) The King and Queen
 - b) The mum and dad
 - c) The Emperor and Empress
4. Hina Matsuri is also known as?
 - a) Apple Blossom Day
 - b) Peach Blossom Day
 - c) Cherry Blossom Day
5. What is the name of the special drink used at Hina Matsuri celebrations?
 - a) Hishimochi
 - b) Sake
 - c) Sushi
6. How many tiers does a typical doll display have?
 - a) 15
 - b) 3
 - c) 7
7. What is the name of the story that inspired the purification ceremony?
 - a) The Tale of Genji
 - b) Hina Arare
 - c) Hello Kitty
8. If doll displays are not put away immediately after Hina Matsuri, Japanese people believe...
 - a) The girls will experience bad luck
 - b) The peaches will not grow
 - c) The girls will not be able to get married
9. Which popular Japanese character has her own doll altar in her home?
 - a) Licca
 - b) Whinnie the Pooh
 - c) Hello Kitty

Activities

Activity #1: Dolls Display

Take a look at the section of the exhibition about altars. Create your own altar dolls display either in your classroom or in a communal area of your school. Include posters or labels that explain the elements of your altar to other students.

You could bring in dolls from home or make your own. Consider making a paper-based display to hang on a bulletin board.

Activity #2: Memories

Read the memories of Hina Matsuri from Japanese girls around the world. The festival was an important part of their childhood.

Write a paragraph or two describing your own memories of a festival or celebration that played a significant role for you whilst growing up. You could even try to find a photograph to include!

Activity #3: Hina Matsuri Menu

Food plays a big part in the Girl's Day festival in Japan. It is represented in the altar displays as well as being enjoyed by friends and family.

Explore the section on food in the exhibition and put together a menu for your own Hina Matsuri celebrations, or for a cultural day that is celebrated in your country.

You could even try making some of the items from your menu and sharing them with your classmates or your family!



UK National Curriculum Links:

History KS1 & KS2:

- Know & understand significant aspects of history of the wider world
- Changes within living memory

Art & Design: KS1 & KS2:

- Produce creative work
- Become proficient in drawing & painting
- Evaluate & analyse creative works
- Know about great artists, craft makers & designers, & understand the historical & cultural development

English KS1 & KS2:

- Use discussion in order to learn
- Ask relevant questions to extend their understanding & knowledge
- Articulate & justify answers, arguments & opinions



US Common Core Links:

History/Social Studies:

- Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions

Speaking & Listening:

- Pose and respond to specific questions with elaboration and detail by making comments that contribute to the topic, text, or issue under discussion
- Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study

Writing:

- Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate

Activities continued

Activity #4: Pop Culture Characters

Take a look at the information and images about the role of popular culture in Hina Matsuri. Many famous Japanese characters play a part in the celebrations.

Imagine and draw your favorite character from popular culture as part of the Girl's Day celebrations, or in relation to a celebration in your own culture.

You could even make a doll of your new character to be displayed on a Hina Matsuri altar!

Activity #5: Woodblock Wonders

Take a look at the examples of woodblock prints from the 18th and 19th centuries depicting different aspects of Hina Matsuri.

Design your own picture of your favorite part of the Japanese Girl's Day celebrations. You could consider using characters from pop culture to provide a modern twist in your design!

Share your finished artwork with the rest of your class in a tabletop gallery and discuss your pictures with one another. How are they similar or different?

Bonus points:

Share your activities with us to be featured on Girl Museum's blog!

Email an essay, photos, and/or a video of your project to share@girlmuseum.org

Girl Museum

We are the first and only online museum about girlhood.

We exhibit, educate, and raise awareness about the unique experience of being born and growing up female around the world in the past and present.

As a community of passionate and creative individuals, we acknowledge and advocate for girls as forces for collective responsibility and change in the global context, not as victims and consumers.

We are a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization.

Learn more and get involved at www.GirlMuseum.org



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Quiz answers: 1(b), 2(a), 3(c), 4(c), 5(b), 6(c), 7(a), 8(c), 9(a).

Activity #6: Girl's Day Wishes



One of the most important aspects of celebrating Hina Matsuri/Girls' Day is wishing for the happy and successful future for all girls. Take a look at the wishes made by girls of all ages who visited our September exhibition in Wellington and Auckland, New Zealand.

Write down your own wishes, hopes and dreams for the future. These can be kept private or shared with your class in a special display.

You could have a box in the classroom where you post wishes related to school, such as 'I wish we had more art lessons.'

As a class, you could decide to fulfill one of these wishes!