

CHILDREN'S DAY AT SHOFUSO

An educational series - japanphilly.org



WHAT IS CHILDREN'S DAY?

Children's day is a Japanese national holiday set aside to celebrate children and to hope for their happy, healthy future. The tradition dates back to the 6th century in Japan as an annual imperial court ceremony held on the fifth day of the fifth month. Over time, the ceremony evolved into two separate celebrations for both boys and girls.

In 1948, the Japanese government formally designated May 5th as the official holiday to celebrate all children in Japan.

LESSON 1



SHOFUSO
JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER

HOW IS IT CELEBRATED?

Children's Day sees many colorful and ornate displays, many handed down from generation to generation.

Koinobori - These majestic eye-catching streamers or windsocks are decorated like koi fish, a symbol of long life and heartiness in Japan, and flown each May during Children's Day.



Yoroi - The traditional Japanese armor worn by the samurai class in feudal Japan, these often miniature displays of armor were originally a part of the Boy's Day festivities. Now a regular sight during Children's Day, the armor projects a sense of strength and vitality.



Hina Dolls - Hinamatsuri, or Doll's Day, is the traditional Girl's Day celebration, taking place on March 3rd. The dolls represent different members of the Japanese imperial court, specifically around the Heian period (794-1185 CE)



Shofuso displays these traditional decorations the first week of May every year!

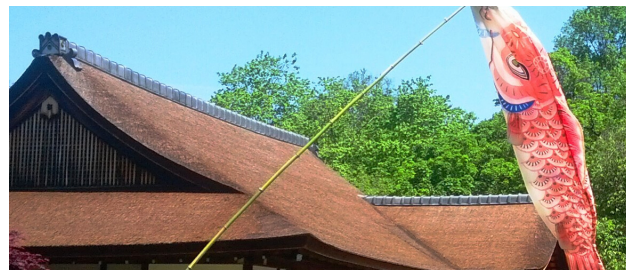


HOW IS IT CELEBRATED AT SHOFUSO?

At the start of May each year, Shofuso hosts hundreds of children from all over the greater Philadelphia area for a week of exciting activities and experiences.

These include an interactive kimono dressing demonstration and a thundering taiko drum performance!

Three of these activities, a simple koinobori craft, an interactive fan dance demonstration, and a brief tour of Shofuso, are all included digitally in this pack.



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