

Koi Nobori

On May 5, Japanese people celebrate the health and happiness for boys. It's known as "Tango no Sekku" On this day the families with boys will raise carp-shaped flags called "Koi nobori" to express hope that their boys will grow up healthy and strong.

In Japan, the carp is thought to be a symbol of strength, courage and success because of a Chinese legend that a carp swam upstream and became a dragon. "Koi no Takinobori (Carp's waterfall climbing)" in Japanese proverbs, means "to succeed vigorously in life."

The largest carp at the top represents the father, followed by the eldest son, while the littlest carp at the bottom represents the youngest boy.

Now days it is not uncommon to fly a carp for each member of the family including Mom , Dad and the Children. The celebration is called "Kodomo no Hi"(Children's Day). It's now a part of Golden Week of Japan.

Instructions



Print the Fish out on either Printable Cotton or Paper.

Cut out the fish and glue the wrong sides together making a fish pillow type kite. I like to stuff the kite with small pieces of a cotton ball to give it weight and look like it is filled with air.

I used a needle and thread to sew on a string to hang the kite from.

I created smaller Koi to use inside the house or tearoom structure. Attach to a thin toothpick or dowel to create a handle like a balloon stick.

Paint the toothpick Black and then insert one end into a Bead or jewelry finding to create a stand. Glue the fish kite onto the end of the toothpick either individually or as a family.

