

Hooray! It's Children's Day



On May 5th, you might want to be in Japan. That day, the fifth day of the fifth month, is Children's Day (Kodomo-no-hi). It's a day when people in Japan celebrate children's happiness and health and give thanks to mothers.

The Changing Holiday

People in Japan have celebrated Children's Day for more than 700 years. It became an official national holiday after World War II. The holiday was made to lift the spirits of the Japanese people after the war. The holiday has changed over time.

Long ago, May 5th used to be known as Boys' Day. Girls' Day was celebrated in March. In 1948, the Japanese government made May 5th a day to celebrate all children, not just boys, and to give thanks to mothers.

Lots of Ways to Celebrate!

Children's Day is part of Golden Week, and schools and workplaces are closed all over Japan. Families hang colorful flags and kites shaped like carp from their homes and apartments. A carp is a strong and powerful fish that lives a long life. In many homes, warrior dolls are displayed, too. These are meant to give courage to children.

Japanese people eat special treats on Children's Day. They eat rice cakes wrapped in an oak leaf and filled with sweet bean paste. The oak leaf is a symbol of strength. Families go to sports events, musical performances, and other shows that feature kids.

Children's Day is a colorful, joyful day for kids and grown-ups!