

# Make a *Samurai* Helmet 兜

## THE JAPANESE HOUSE ACTIVITIES



*Learn about Boys' Day in Japan and create a samurai helmet out of newspaper.*

**TIME:**  
30 minutes

**MATERIALS:**

- Newspaper (cut in exact squares)

**PRONUNCIATION GUIDE:**

Kabuto: *kah-boo-toe*

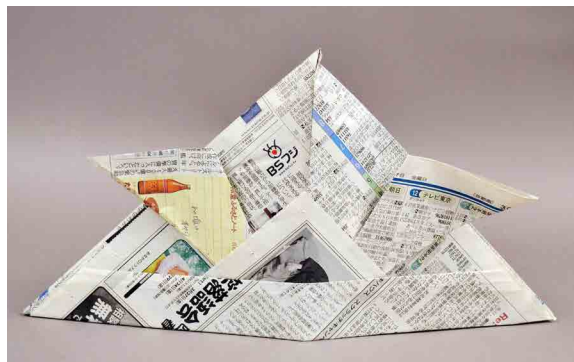
Koinobori:  
*Koh-ee-no-bow-ree*

Samurai: *Sah-moo-rah-ee*

## 1. Learn about Boys' Day

May 5th is Boys' Day, a time to wish for young boys' well-being and encourage them to become brave and strong. Families with boys display huge, colorful carp streamers called *Koinobori* outside of their houses. They may also display a miniature set of samurai armor, or a figurine of a legendary Japanese figure. Other ways to celebrate are eating special rice cakes and taking a special herbal bath.

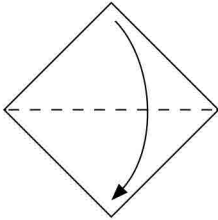
Another popular activity on Boys' Day is to make a *kami-kabuto*, a paper samurai helmet. Samurai are warriors who ruled Japan for many centuries. Like Western knights, samurai wore armor and helmets to protect themselves in battle. Making these paper helmets is fun any time of year, but especially on Boys' Day. All you need is a piece of newspaper to become a brave warrior!



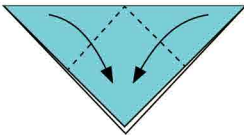
2.

## Make a *kami-kabuto*

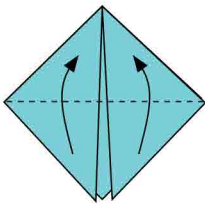
1. Fold the paper in half diagonally to form a triangle.



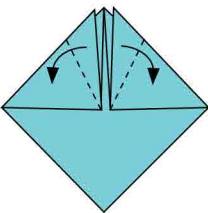
2. Fold the right and left corners to meet the center tip.



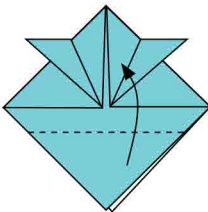
3. Take the flaps you made in step 2 and fold them up.



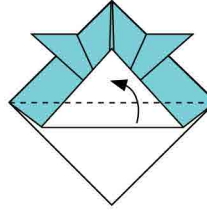
4. Fold the top flaps at the dotted lines.



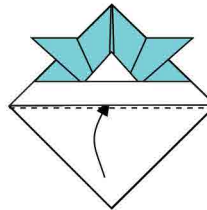
5. Take the 1st layer and fold it up at the dotted line.



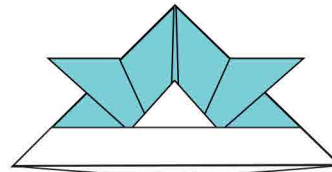
6. Fold the 1st layer again at the dotted line.



8. Take the last layer and tuck it inside the helmet.



9. Decorate the helmet and make it yours!



Making newspaper into origami paper:



### Origami tips:

- Fold origami on a flat surface to make sure the edges line up and the fold is accurate.
- Sliding your thumb nail across the folded edge will make good crisp creases.

### 3. Things to talk about

- May 5th became a national holiday, Children's Day, in 1948, but the traditions of Girls' Day (March 3rd) and Boys' Day are also still often celebrated. Do you think it makes a difference if you celebrate boys and girls separately? Why?
- Some favorite Boys' Day stories are:
  - Peach Boy (*Momotaro*)
  - Golden Boy (*Kintaro*)
  - The One-Inch Boy (*Issun-boshi*)

