

Make a Fine Weather Doll

てるてる坊主

THE JAPANESE HOUSE ACTIVITIES



Learn about the rainy season (*tsuyu*) in Japan and create a fine weather doll (*teru teru bozu*).

1. Learn about *tsuyu*

The rainy season in Japan is called *tsuyu*. Normally, it begins in June and lasts through mid-July. It rains almost every day during *tsuyu*. In addition to the rain, the air gets hot and humid. When *tsuyu* is over, summer begins. Although continuous rain can be very uncomfortable, *tsuyu* is very important for growing rice.

During the rainy season, Japanese children make *teru teru bozu*—fine weather dolls—and hang them from the eaves of their houses or on the outside of windows as good luck charms. It is said that *teru teru bozu* have the power to bring good weather. *Teru* means “to shine” and *bozu* is the word used describing “a little boy.” It is believed that these little smooth-headed dolls will bring out the sun. If someone is hoping for a rainy day, she can hang the *teru teru bozu* upside down.



TIME:

20 minutes

MATERIALS:

- Facial tissue (3 pieces per doll)
- String or ribbon
- Markers

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE:

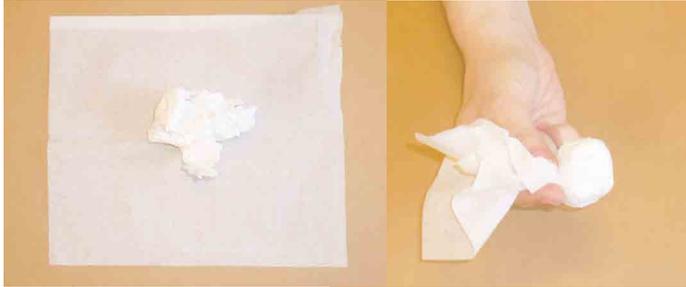
Tsuyu: *Tsu-you*

Teru teru bozu:

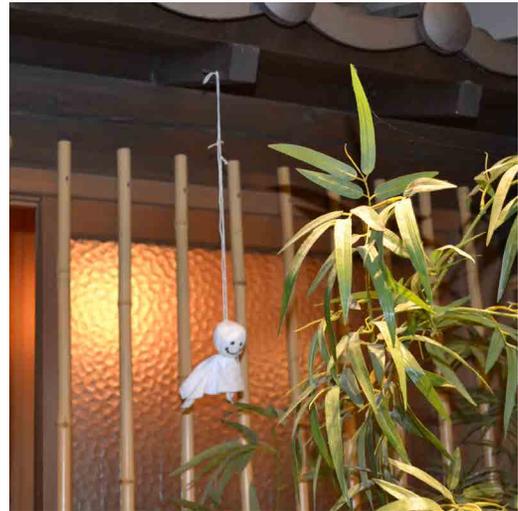
Tay-roo tay-roo bow-zoo

2. Make a *Teru Teru Bozu*

1. Take two sheets of tissue paper and crumple them into a ball.
2. Place the ball in the center of another tissue sheet and wrap it.



3. Tie a string around the bottom so it looks like a ghost.
4. Draw a face on.
5. Hang it near the window for good weather.



3. Things to Talk About

- What kinds of weather do you like, and what kind do you hope for?
- What types of things do you normally associate with rain? Do you think Japanese children associate those things with rain, too?
- This *tsuyu* weather phenomenon is caused by the collision of cold winds from the north and warm winds from the south, which linger above Japan and produce rain. Do you know what causes other seasonal changes?
- *Kaeru no Uta* (Frog song) is a well-known Japanese children's song. Unlike people, frogs like the rainy season; during this season they can often be heard in the rice paddies.



Lyrics:

Kaeru no uta ga
kah-ay-roo no ooh-tah gah

Kikoete kuruyo
key-koh-ay-tay coo-roo-yo

Kwa kwa kwa kwa
kwah kwah kwah kwah

Kero kero kero kero
kay-roe, kay-roe, kay-roe, kay-roe

kwa kwa kwa
kwah kwah kwah

Translation:

I'm starting to hear

The frogs singing

Ribbit, ribbit, ribbit

***Kaeru no Uta*—Frog Song**

ka - e - ru no u - ta ga ki - ko - e - te ku - ru yo kwa - kwa - kwa - kwa

ke - ro ke - ro ke - ro ke - ro kwa - kwa - kwa