

Make *Hina*-dolls 雛人形

THE JAPANESE HOUSE ACTIVITIES



Celebrate *Hina-matsuri* (Girls' Day) by making a set of origami Emperor and Empress *Hina*-dolls.

1. Learn about *Hina-matsuri*

Hina-matsuri (Girl's Day, or the Doll Festival) is celebrated on March 3rd every year to honor girls. On this day, families with daughters display special dolls called *Hina-ningyo* in their homes and wish for health and happiness for their daughters' future. These dolls represent members of the ancient Japanese Imperial Court. *Hina-ningyo* are made from a wide variety of materials, such as wood, paper, and cloth. Children do not play with the *Hina-ningyo*; they are ceremonial dolls only to be looked at.

The origin of *Hina-matsuri* can be traced back to medieval times. In the olden days, families used the dolls as talismans to keep bad luck away from their daughters. Later on, it became popular for wealthier families to display a set of elaborate dolls for their daughters. This is similar to how *Hina-ningyo* are displayed today.



TIME:

30 minutes

MATERIALS:

- Origami paper
- Glue sticks
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Decorating materials (optional)
- Background sheet (optional)

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE:

Hina-matsuri:
Hee-nah mah-tsu-ree

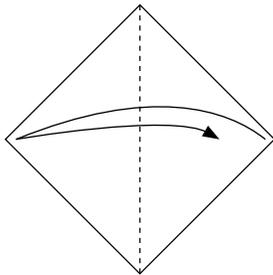
Hina-ningyo:
Hee-nah nee-n-gyoh

Origami:
Oh-ree-gah-mee

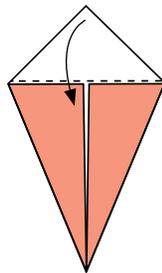
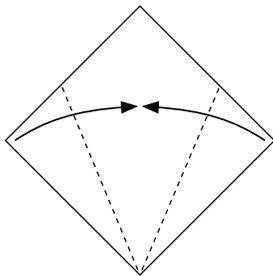
2. Make Your Own *Hina-ningyo*

Before you start: You will need 2 sheets of *origami* paper if you are making both Emperor and Empress.

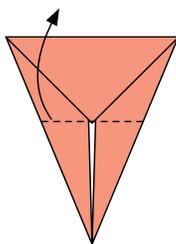
1. Place the paper with the colored side facing down. Crease the paper down the center, so that you have a triangle shape. Then, uncrease it.



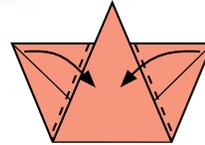
2. Fold the left and right corners of the paper into the center.
3. Fold the top of the paper down.



4. Fold the bottom up.



5. Fold the sides in.

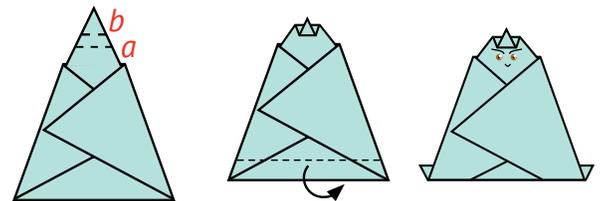


The next steps are different for the Emperor and Empress.

For the Emperor:

6. Fold the tip forward and then fold it back upward a little. Turn it over and fold the bottom upward a little.

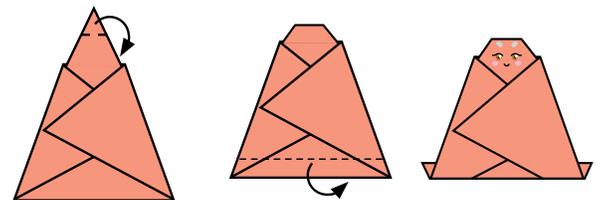
7. Draw the face.



For the Empress:

6. Hold the top point back. Then, turn it over and fold the bottom upward a little.

7. Draw the face.



More fun: Once the dolls are done, glue them onto the background sheet provided on page 4. Then, decorate and display.

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

- Is there a Boys' Day in Japan too? There is. Historically, it was celebrated on May 5th. That day is now the national holiday Children's Day. The May activity focuses on Boys' Day.
- Are there special things at home that are just for looking? Do you have special dolls or toys you would like people to just look at but not play with?

