

## About the festival

Hina Matsuri is celebrated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March in Japan. Hina means 'small doll' and Hina Matsuri is the festival of dolls. The festival is also known as 'Girls' Day' because daughters are honoured and their health and prosperity is celebrated on this day.

During Hina Matsuri, mothers and daughters set up an elaborate doll display, usually in the best room of the house. The display is set up to represent an emperor's palace, with the emperor and empress at the top and the palace staff near the bottom. Shops throughout Japan sell dolls, doll-shaped sweets and little pink rice cakes wrapped in cherry blossom leaves.

During the ceremony of the dolls, a procession of people carry flowers and little dolls and place them in wooden boats. Shinto priests offer prayers and then they cast the boats out to sea. Many believe that their ill fortunes also get cast away with the dolls.

### Did you know?

In Japanese, *Hina* means small doll and *Matsuri* means festival.

### Did you know?

The dolls are usually displayed on 5 or 7 tiers on a red carpet.

### Did you know?

On Hina Matsuri, girls wear kimonos and they visit their friends' doll displays. They drink tea with their mothers and celebrate being a girl!

Hina Matsuri



Little doll  
Little doll  
Where are you?  
I'm under the table  
Hiding from you!



Little doll  
Little doll  
Where are you?  
I'm in the cupboard  
Hiding from you!



Little doll  
Little doll  
Where are you?  
I'm behind the sofa  
Hiding from you!

### Did you know?

Hina Matsuri is also known as 'Girls' Day' because girls are honoured on this day.

### Did you know?

The palace staff includes musicians, singers and drink bearers. They stay on the bottom tiers.

### Did you know?

People place the dolls in boats with flowers and cast them out to sea. They believe their bad luck is taken away with the dolls.

### Did you know?

Hina Matsuri takes place on 3<sup>rd</sup> March in Japan.

### Did you know?

In the doll display, the emperor and the empress are always at the top.

### Did you know?

People believe that the dolls can take away bad luck.

1. When is Hina Matsuri?

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2. What does 'Hina Matsuri' mean?

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3. Who celebrates this festival?

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4. Why is this festival also called 'Girls' Day'?

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5. What colour carpet is used for the doll display?

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6. Who sits at the top of the doll display?

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7. Why do people cast the dolls out to sea in little boats?

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8. Where do the palace staff sit?

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9. What do girls do on Hina Matsuri?

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