



Creative expression

Students make koinobori – traditional Japanese carp – from paper and decorate them using any technique of their choice.

Koinobori – traditional Japanese carp made from paper – instructions

Materials for each student:

- printed Carp template (template = 2 images of carp),
- a sheet of construction paper,
- scissors,
- glue,
- hole punch (alternatively, a biro for making holes),
- a small piece of string for each child (approx. 20 in - 40 in)
- any art materials of your choice for decorating the carp: tissue/crepe paper, colored paper, glitter, markers, crayons, scraps of paper.

Execution:

1. Students get printed cards with two carp templates and cut them both out.
2. Next, they cut out 2 strips, approx. 4 in long and 0,5 in wide, from the construction paper. They glue the ends together to form rings, as shown in the photograph.
3. Then they glue the two carp images together, applying glue along the edges of the carp (see photographs).
4. Students glue one of the rings made from the strip of paper inside the mouth of the carp – so that the carp can have an open mouth. They stick the second ring inside the tail end (as shown in the last photograph).
5. In the region of the mouth, they punch holes with a hole punch.
6. When the paper carps are ready, students start to decorate the streamers. They can use any technique of their choice (they can color them, stick tissue/crepe paper on them, decorate them with glitter, stick on tails made of paper, etc.). They choose the color scheme themselves. Remind them that the streamers that they make symbolize children – in this case, themselves. To fulfil their traditional functions, koinobori should attract people's attention and be highly visible.
7. At the end, children put a string through the openings in the mouth, which will be used to suspend the carp on a mast or line/rope.



Instead of each child making their own carp in A4 format, you can make one huge carp or several big ones – in that case, prepare a template on your own using the ready-made design.

