

Children's Day

In Japan, Children's Day is celebrated on the 5th May. It is a national holiday for children, where parents wish their children happiness and prosperity.

Long ago, the day was a Boy's Festival where families celebrated the healthy growth of boys. Herbs were gathered to scare away evil spirits. Families hung carp streamers outside their houses. In Chinese mythology, carp turn into dragons after swimming upstream against a waterfall named Dragon's Castle.

On this day, carp or Koi kites are flown on poles outside houses. A black fish represents the father and a red one the mother, then a fish for each boy in the family. Families make origami warriors' helmets and decorate them with Iris leaves. People eat a special sweet made of rice wrapped in an oak leaf.

Draw a picture illustrating something from the Information Report, label your drawing.

