



What do I need?

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Green, dark and light pink
A4 card

Scissors

Glue

Stapler

Yellow colouring pen



Hana Matsuri flower headpiece

What do I do?

Look at page 2 to learn about the Hana Matsuri festival, which is celebrated in Japan and some other Asian countries.

Fold a sheet of green card into quarters lengthways then cut along the fold lines so you have four strips of card.

Staple two of the strips together at the short edges to make a circle. This will be the base of your headpiece.

Cut out the flower and leaf templates on page 3. Trace the leaf template onto your green card five times, then cut them out.

Now, trace the larger flower template onto your dark pink card three times and cut them out. Do the same with the smaller flower template on your light pink card.

Glue your dark pink flowers onto your headpiece, leaving about 5cm-8cm of space between them. Glue one of your light pink flowers on top of each dark pink flower, then stick your leaves around the flowers.

Draw a yellow centre in the middle of each flower using your yellow pen.



Hana Matsuri

The Buddha's birthday is celebrated around springtime in Buddhist countries across East Asia and is commemorated differently from country to country. The festivals often reflect the change in seasons from winter to spring and may also incorporate acknowledgements of each country's culture and history.

In Japan, the festival is called 'Hana Matsuri' and is celebrated on the 8th April each year, coinciding with the *sakura* (cherry blossom) season. The festival incorporates the Japanese culture, with street processions in traditional dress, performances and lots of floral displays. During the festival, you can expect to see lots of small houses adorned with flowers displaying a small figure of the Buddha inside where people offer up gifts. It is traditional for people to ladle sweet tea called *ama-cha* (made out of hydrangea leaves) over the statue of the Buddha.



Buddhist temples hold events to celebrate Hana Matsuri, one of the most popular being the Senso-ji Temple in Asakusa, Tokyo. The festival is centred around children who often wear traditional Japanese costumes and homemade flower headpieces which represent the cherry blossom.

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