

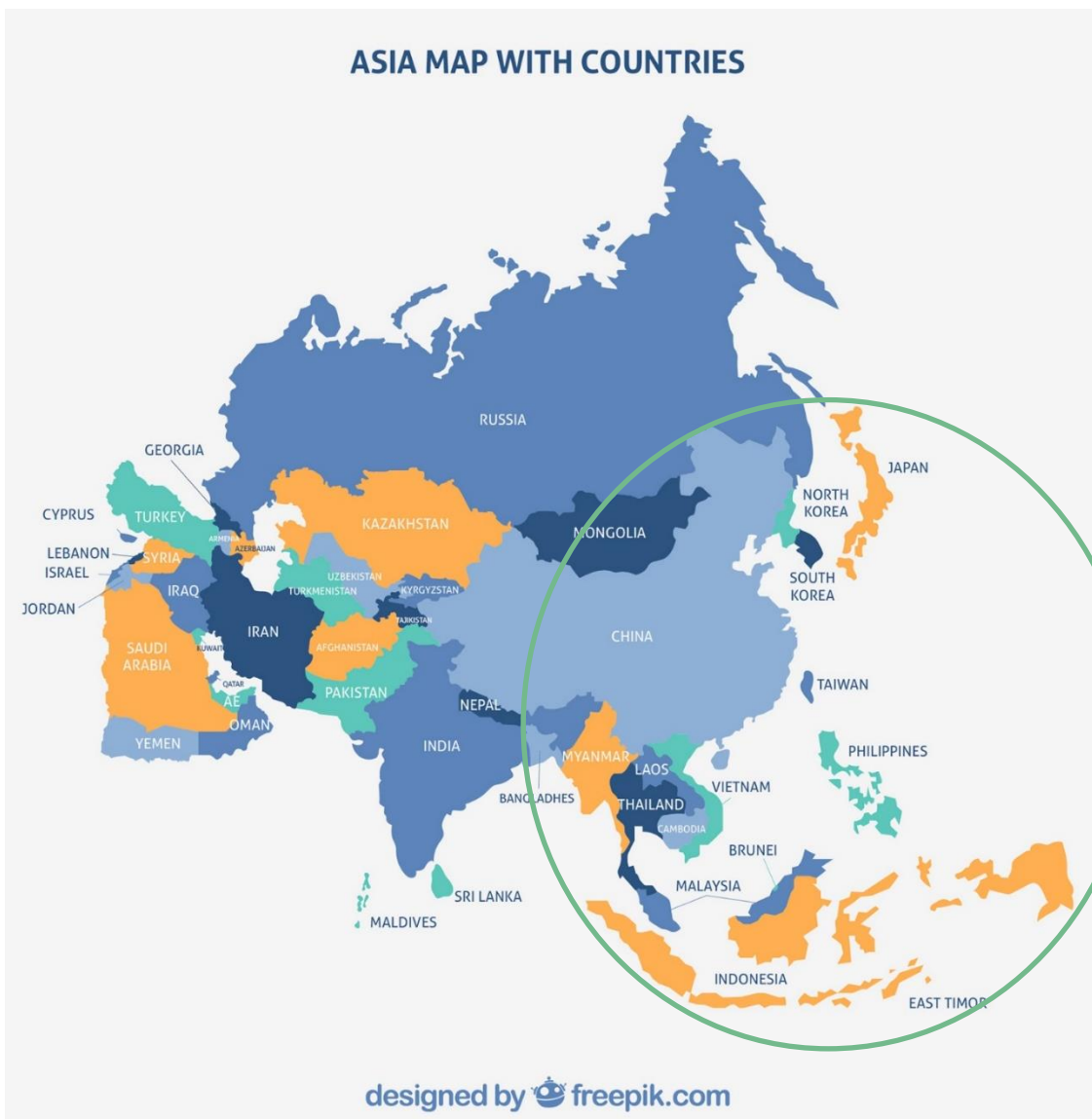
RESOURCES & ACTIVITIES

These activities have been selected to enjoy the springtime while learning about Japan - and other East Asian regions - and the Museum collection. Please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing learning@meaa.org.uk if you have any questions or want to send us pictures of your work.

Disclaimer: This document contains links to YouTube videos and external website links selected by the Museum team. The Museum of East Asian Art is not responsible for the content, accessibility, or privacy policies of external websites. The inclusion of a link to an external website from our website or downloadable materials does not entail an endorsement of that website, its owners, products or services. We also advise to have the necessary parental controls in place.

Find links in green

Which regions are in East and South East Asia? Look inside the circle!



Kodomo no hi: Children's Day in Japan

Kodomo no hi, or Children's Day, is celebrated on 5 May in Japan. This is a public holiday which celebrates children's wellbeing and happiness and honours and thanks their mothers.

On Children's Day families eat *chimaki* (rice dumplings wrapped in bamboo leaves) and *kashiwa mochi* (rice cakes stuffed with bean paste and wrapped in oak leaves), and fly windsocks shaped like carp fish, known as *koinobori* (carp streamer), from their terraces and roofs. The bigger carp represent the parents and the smaller ones the children, and they look like they are swimming when flying in the wind. In East Asia, carp symbolise success and determination because they swim upstream in nature. According to the old Chinese legend of The Dragon's Gate, a carp once swam upstream all the way to heaven, and the gods were so impressed that they turned it into a dragon.

Remember: You can look at the map on the previous page to find both China and Japan.



Japanese Carp Streamers or *koinobori*

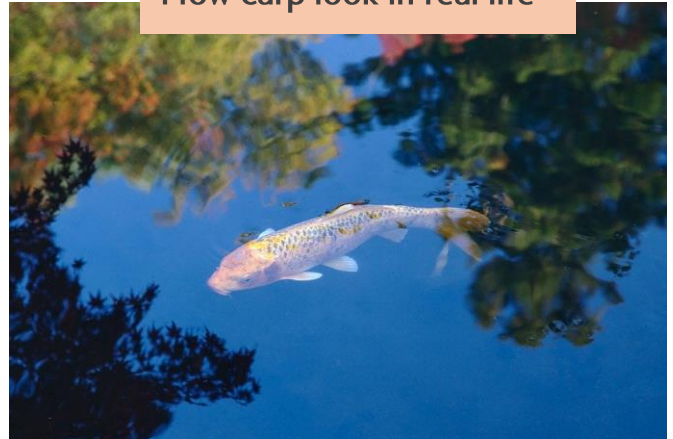
Read

[The Dragon's Gate Story](#)

Watch

[Children's Day Festival – A clip from BBC Two Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands](#)

How carp look in real life



Explore: These two objects from our Museum collection represent koi carp turning into dragons. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Make

Print out or trace the template on the next page and follow the instructions to create your own *koinobori*.

Decorate the Koi carp.
Fold paper in half along dotted line.
Cut around the edge of the fish (apart from the folded edge).
Stick the bottom and top edges together (leaving the mouth and tail open).
Use a hole punch to make two holes in the mouth and attach the string.
Display your carp!

