

Tanabata Wish

The Tanabata Festival in Japan celebrates an old love story about a weaver princess and a cow herder. In the story, they are allowed to meet only once a year, on July 7th, so many people celebrate their reunion on this day. The two characters in the story represent two stars in the Milky Way so Tanabata is also called the **'Star Festival'**.

If you are in Japan for Tanabata you will see lots of colourful decorations, including coloured strips of paper called tanzaku which are hung up on bamboo. Traditionally, people would write a wish on tanzaku to pray for Orihime and Hikoboshi's reunion. Now many people write their own personal wish on tanzaku too.

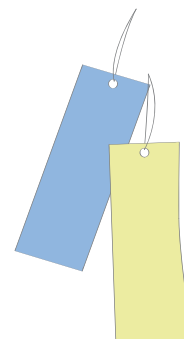
Write a Tanzaku!



Make your own tanzaku with coloured paper/card by following the instructions below. You can also use our templates on the next page.

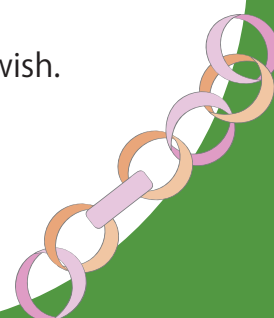
You will need:

- Coloured Paper/Card
- String or ribbon
- Hole punch
- Pen
- Scissors



Instructions:

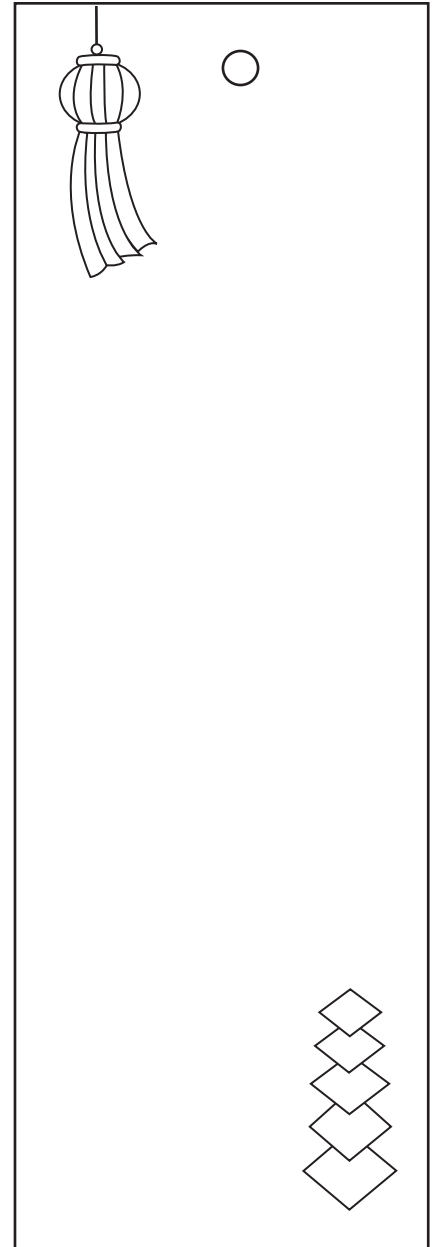
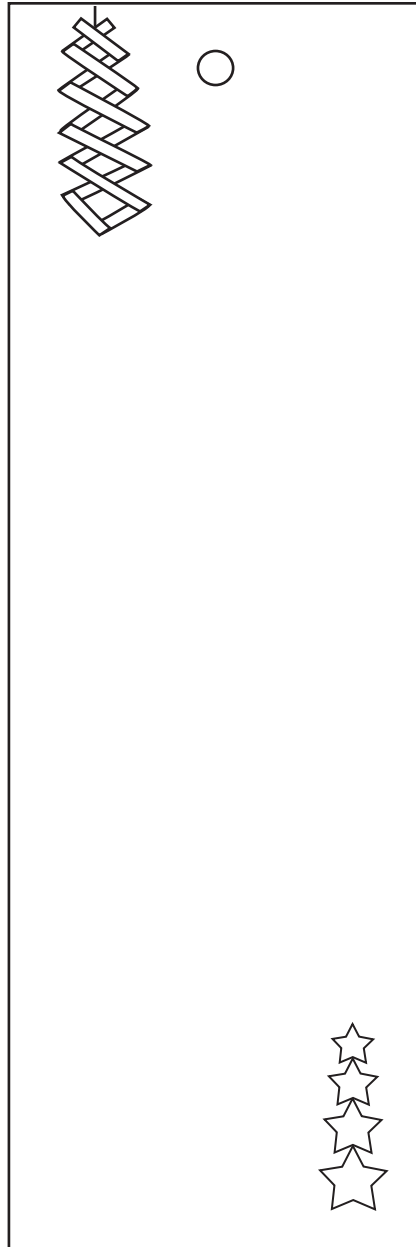
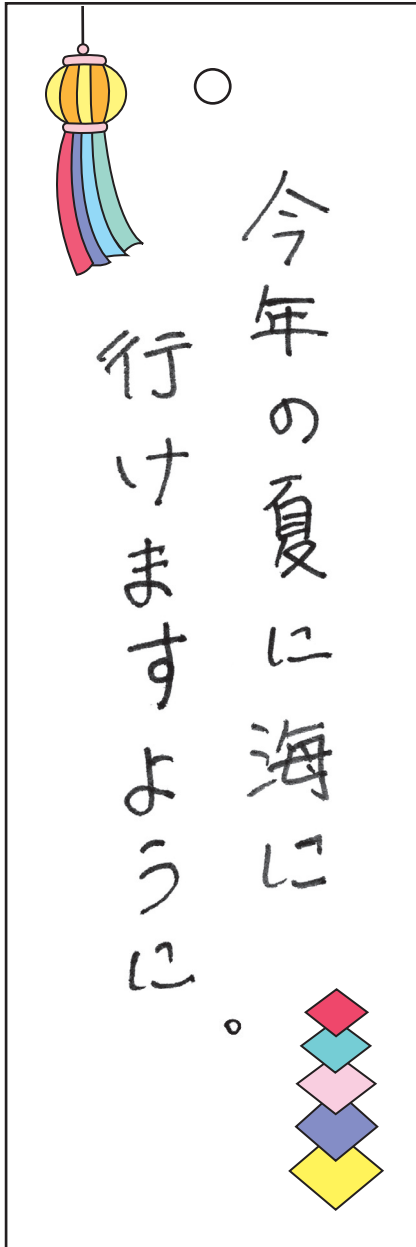
1. Cut out a rectangle of coloured paper or card. It should be roughly 7cm by 15cm, but it can be bigger or smaller.
2. Using a hole punch, make a hole in the top of the rectangle, about 1cm away from the edge.
3. Write your wish and your name on the tanzaku paper with a pen. You can add extra drawings or decorations if you like.
4. Thread ribbon or string through the hole and find a place to hang your wish.





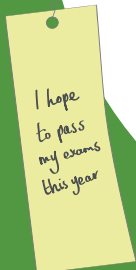
Tanzaku Templates

Make your tanzaku with our templates. Simply print and colour them in before carefully cutting each out. You can also use them to practice writing your wish. The example on the left is written in Japanese. It says "I hope to go to the beach this summer."



Send us your tanzaku!

We would love to see what you have wished for this year. Send a photo of your finished tanzaku to education@japansociety.org.uk or tag us on social media and we will display it in our online gallery.



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