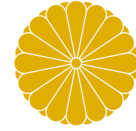




日本の皇室



Japan's Imperial Family



Top: Emperor Naruhito, Empress Masako in their wedding outfits when they were Crown Prince and Crown Princess. Bottom: Emperor Naruhito, Empress Masako, and their daughter Princess Aiko.



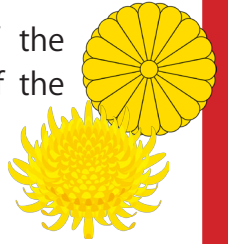
The Emperor and Imperial Family



By 外務省, CC BY 4.0

In the UK we have a king and a queen, in Japan they have an emperor and an empress. The current Emperor Naruhito took the throne on 1 May 2019 and is the 126th monarch of Japan. The reign of each emperor gets a special name. This one is called “Reiwa” (令和) which means “beautiful harmony”.

The chrysanthemum is an important symbol of the Japanese Emperor and his family – the throne of the Emperor and the imperial seal (similar to coat of arms) both have a chrysanthemum design. That’s also why The Japan Society uses a chrysanthemum flower as its logo!



Emperor and Empress in Japanese



Emperor

天皇

Ten-noh



Empress

皇后

Koh-goh

Fun Facts

Learn more about the emperor and monarchy in Japan by taking the quiz below!

1. Japan is believed to have the oldest monarchy in world.

True or False?

2. The Imperial family lives in the imperial palace. Where is it?

a. Kyoto

b. Osaka

c. Tokyo



3. What is the name of the throne of the Japanese Emperor called?

a. The Sun Throne

b. The Chrysanthemum Throne

c. The Edo Throne

4. According to Japanese myth, the emperor and his family are related to the sun-goddess Amaterasu.

True or False?



Answers on next page!



THE JAPAN SOCIETY

In the past, the emperor and empress of Japan would wear elaborate outfits which you can see in old artworks or on the emperor and empress dolls in a traditional hina doll set.

Nowadays, the Emperor and Empress do not usually dress this way with the exception of very special or formal occasions such as for their wedding photo. Below you can see the layers of different coloured kimono with elaborate designs and the traditional headwear and hairpieces. It looks just like the Japanese imperial court outfits worn hundreds of years ago.



The Imperial Family Visits the UK! Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako will visit the UK in June 2024 to meet King Charles. Both the emperor and the empress studied in Oxford and the emperor wrote a book called *The Thames and I*.



Design a UK-Japan Costume for the Emperor and Empress Hina Dolls

We want to see your designs which represent the friendship between the UK and Japan, to celebrate the special visit by the imperial family to the UK.

Design a traditional Emperor and Empress costume using our template. When you're finished, send a photo or scan of your design to education@japansociety.org.uk for a chance to win! See our website for more details on how to enter.



scan QR code for more details



Find us on Social Media @TheJapanSociety

Quiz answer: 1, True. It is more than 1000 years old; 2, c; 3, b; 4, True. This is why the Emperor is also head of the Shinto religion.

UK-Japan Costume Design Contest

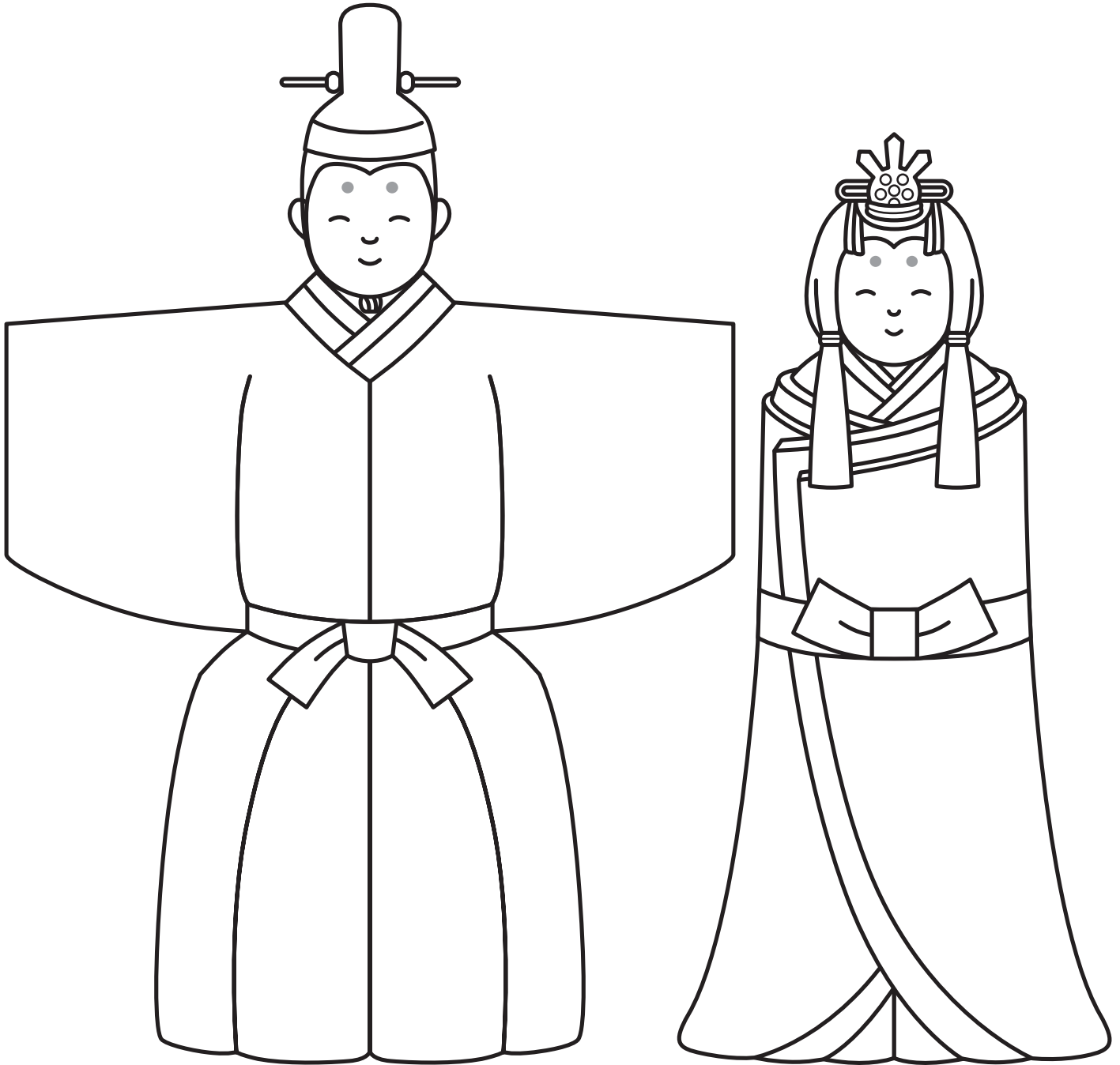
for the Emperor and Empress Hina Dolls



Your Name:

Age:

About your design:



Entry Guidelines

- Your design must include elements which represent the Japan and the UK
- Include at least one of the following: nature patterns, symbolic colours, animals, emblems.
- Take a picture or scan a copy of your entry and email to education@japansociety.org.uk
- Anyone is welcome to send us their design, but entrants must be 16 and under and reside in the UK to be eligible to win a prize.

Deadline: Sunday 28 July 2024