Education Resources

Make a Furin from Recycled Materials

Furin are wind chimes. In Japan they are hung up as decorations and when they move in the breeze, they make a light tinkling sound. Summer is very hot in Japan so the refreshing breeze that comes with the sound is always welcome!

You will need:

- Section of a plastic bottle
- Permanent markers or sharpies
- Your finished *tanzaku* card (tied to a string around 30cm long)
- Small beads and choice of materials for decorating (optional)





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1. Start with one of the pre-prepared bottles.



2. Decorate the *furin* using permanent markers and any other materials you like.

3. Thread beads onto the string so they sit on top of the *tanzaku* card.



4. Tie a knot roughly 15cm from the top of the *tanzaku* string and then thread it through the hole in the bottle.



5. Hang up the finished *furin* for display! Pick somewhere it can flutter in the breeze.



Decorate your Furin

In Japan, *furin* are a symbol of summer and many of the designs include things associated with that time of the year. Your *furin* could be themed around any season.

Examples of symbols of different seasons in Japan:



Pick one of the four seasons then draw or write down things which remind you of it in the box below. Choose your favourites to add to your *furin*!

Add some patterns to your furin! There are many traditional patterns in Japan that were inspired by nature and animals. Below are some examples.



Create your own pattern! Think of animals or things you find in nature around you and draw their shapes in the box below. Choose your favourites to add to your *furin*!