



O Hanami



お花見





Cherry Blossom

Have you heard of cherry blossom? It's a type of flower which is very important in Japan. People look forward to seeing the beautiful cherry blossoms bloom in the springtime, usually in March or April, and there are even 'cherry blossom forecasts' on television to predict when they will appear. The Japanese name for the flowers is **sakura**.



The cherry blossom flower is a national symbol of Japan. You can see sakura on the 100 yen coin which is enough money to buy a bag of crisps or chocolate bar!



You can also buy snacks and sweets in cherry blossom flavour, like the cherry blossom ice cream, soy milk drink and chocolate in the photographs.



Dutch Blythe Fashion , CC BY-NC-ND 2.0



jpellgen (@1179_jp), CC BY-NC-ND 2.0



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What food or drink would you like to try in cherry blossom flavour?



O Hanami

Cherry blossom season is not very long, so it has to be enjoyed while it lasts and one of the best ways to do this is by having a picnic with family and friends under the cherry blossom trees! This is called **hanami** in Japanese, which means 'cherry blossom viewing'. When the flowers are in full bloom parks will be full of people hanging out and having hanami picnics.



Who would you invite to your dream hanami picnic?



Traditional Sweets

During the cherry blossom season, you will also find many traditional sweets that are only available during this time of the year. Hanami Dango and Sakura Mochi are two of the most popular and you will often see them at hanami picnics!

A Hanami Dango has three balls of mochi on a skewer. Each ball is a different colour: pink, green, and white. Sakura mochi is pink and wrapped in a cherry blossom leaf. There is a sweet paste in the middle.



Hanami
Dango



Sakura
Mochi



Hanami Bento

Everyone relaxes at hanami and eats delicious food. The best way to bring food to a hanami picnic is in a bento box, which is similar to a lunch box but is divided up into sections for different types of food.



Blue Lotus, CC BY-2.0

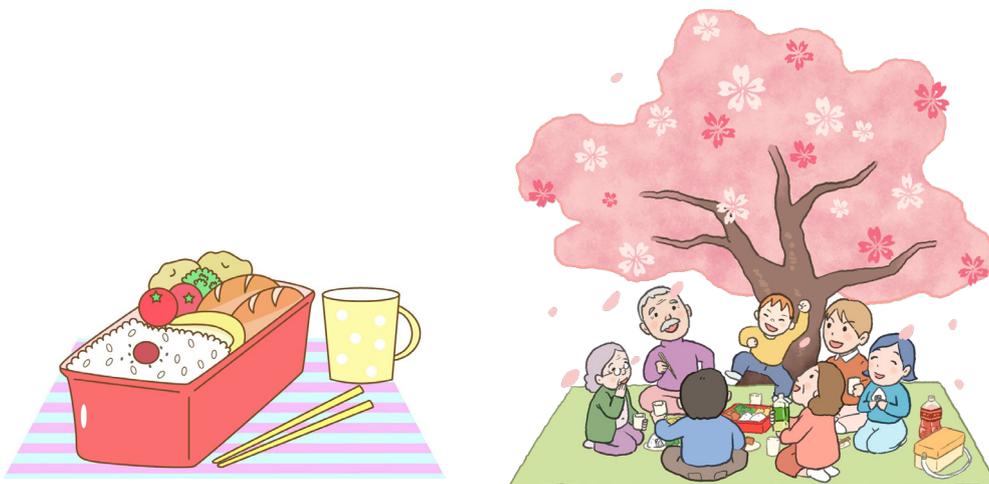


Laliv g, CC BY-SA-4.0



Giatri Oktaviani, CC BY-SA-4.0

Look at the different pictures, what kinds of food can you see?





o hana mi
 お花見

Kanji Characters

In Japanese characters hanami is written like this: 花見.

Why not try writing it below? Follow the stroke order and trace each character, then practice writing them on your own.

		花	見		
hana	mi				

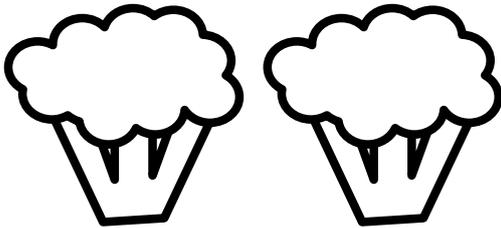
Well done! Now you can practice writing the characters for 'spring' and 'sakura'!

	春				
haru					
	桜				
sakura					

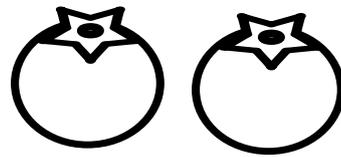


Activity: Design Your Own Bento!

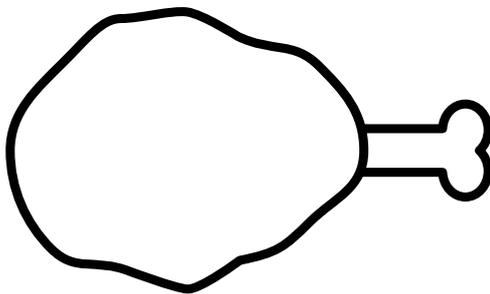
Design and make your own bento lunch box using some of the ingredients below, or you can draw your own! Colour each ingredient, then with the help of an adult, carefully cut each one out and glue it onto the bento template provided. Don't forget your fruits and vegetables!



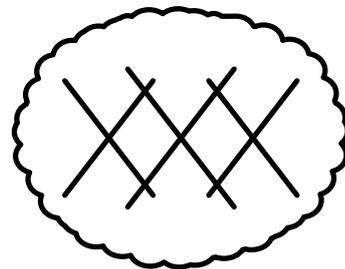
broccoli



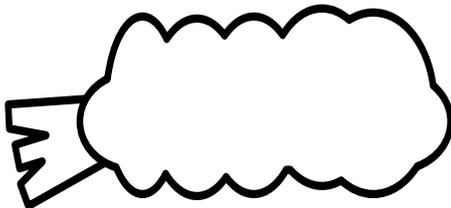
cherry tomatoes



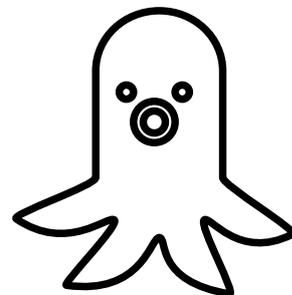
fried chicken



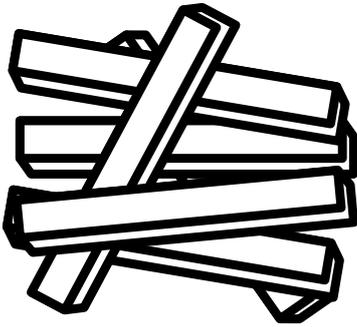
hamburger steak



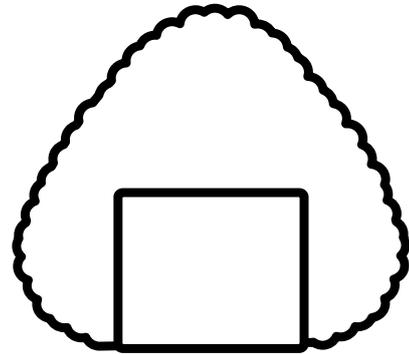
fried prawn



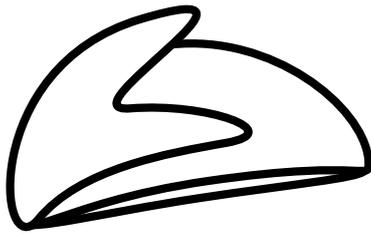
cut up sausage



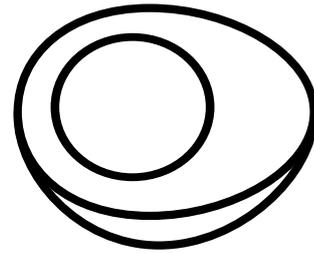
chips



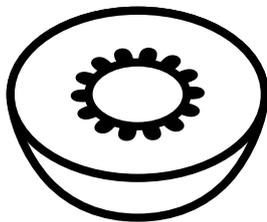
rice ball



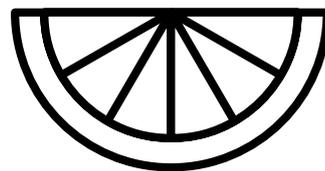
apple slice



hard-boiled egg



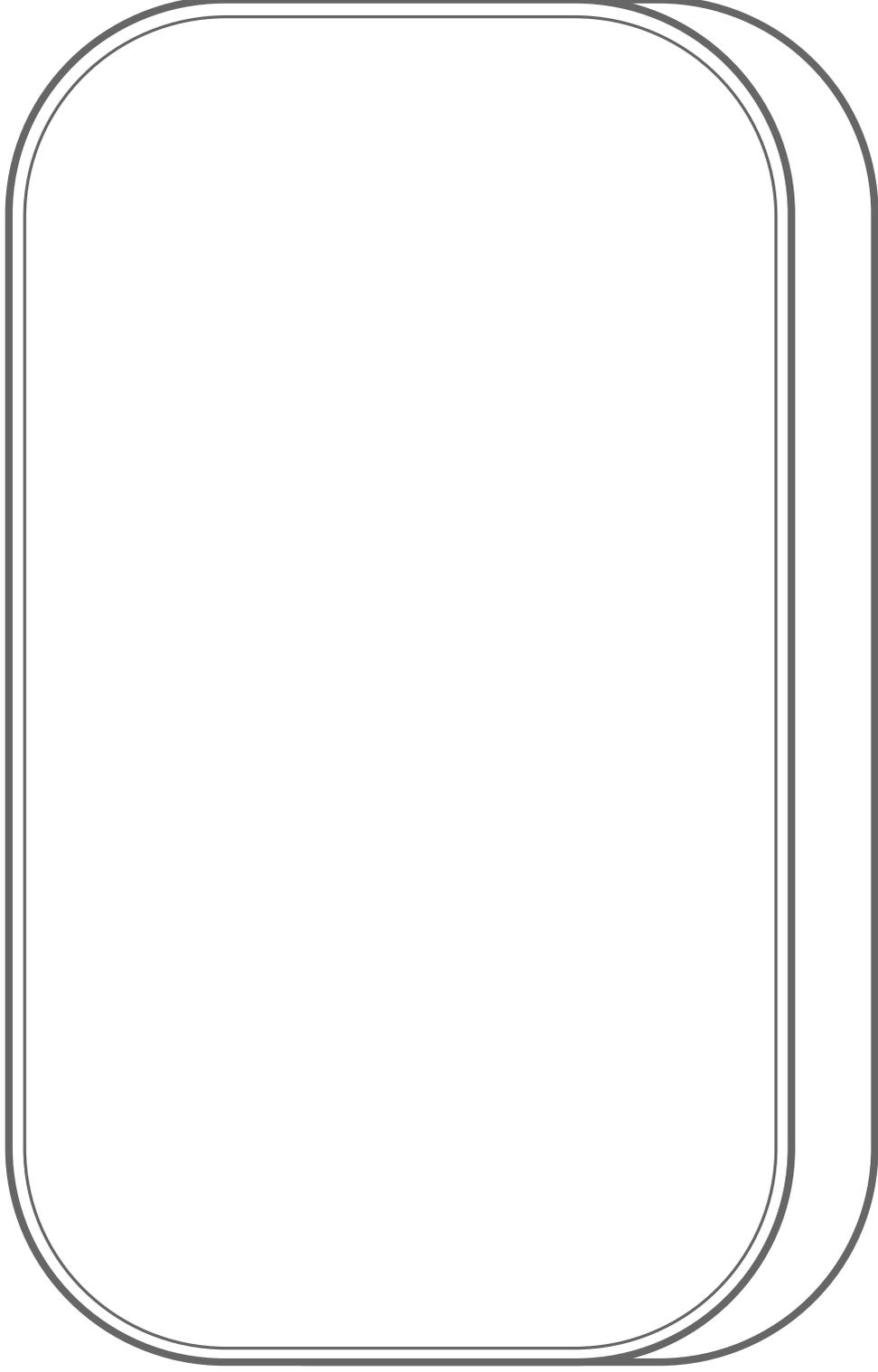
kiwi



orange slice



Bento Box

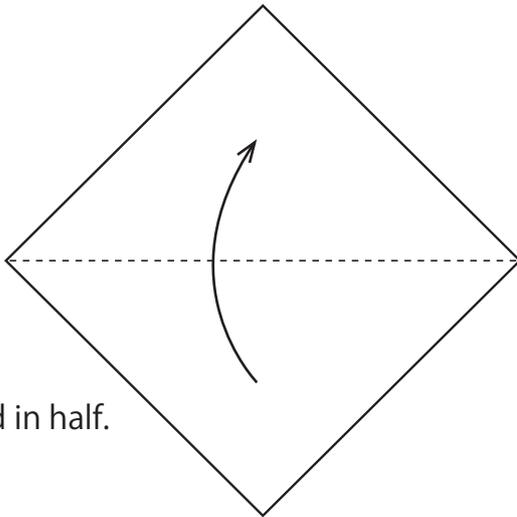
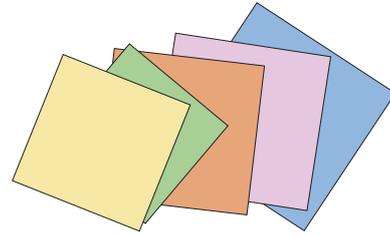




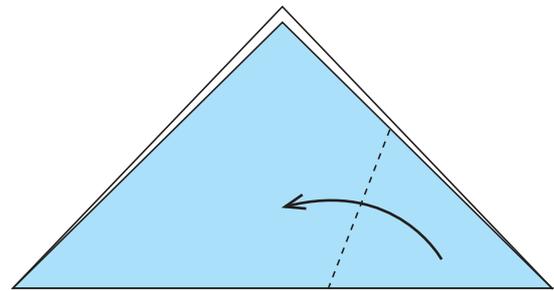
Origami Activity: Picnic Cup

You will need:

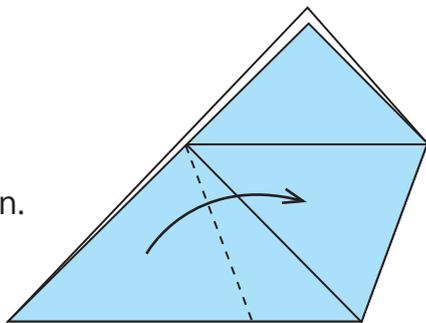
- origami paper or square paper



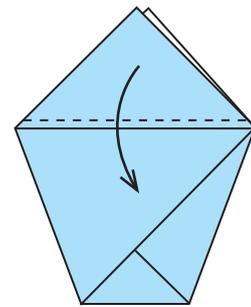
1. Fold in half.



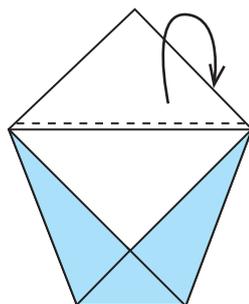
2. Fold in.



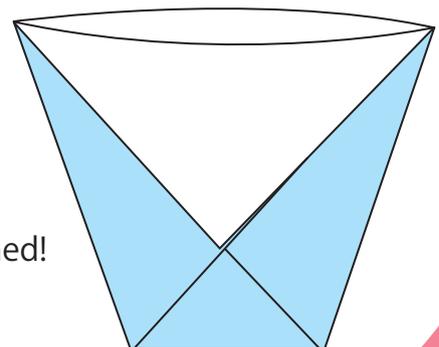
3. Fold in.



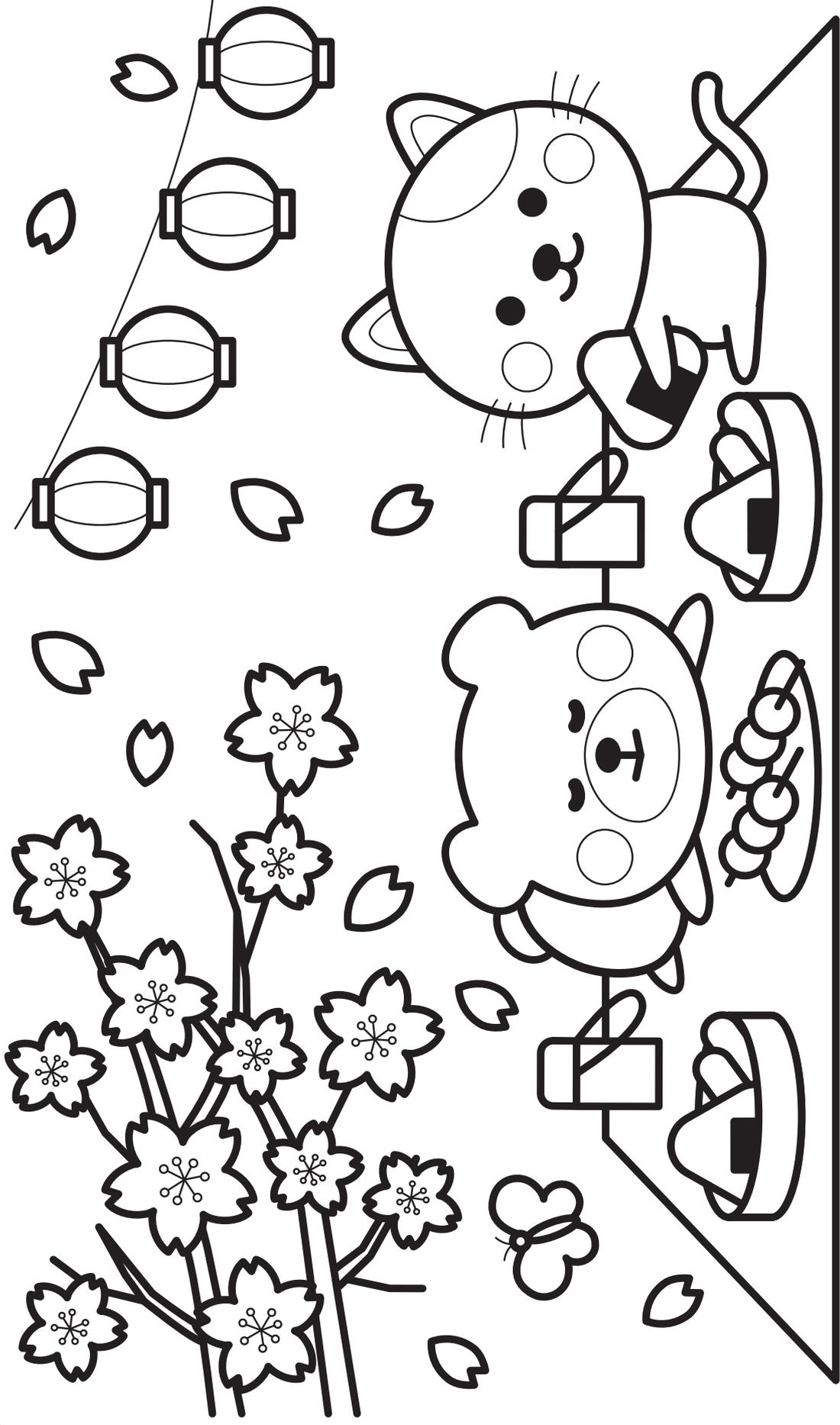
4. Fold down.



5. Fold down
and backward.



6. Finished!



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