

e-Forest for Peace

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Activity Preparation Notes

Schools are encouraged to link the creation of the *furin* wind chimes, *tanzaku* poem cards, and peace trees to the projects which study the wider-themes of peace, sustainability and intercultural learning. These can be chosen as appropriate to the school's context, but ideas for schools wishing to focus specifically on Japan are included below.

Advance preparation by the activity leaders is necessary for the *furin* as it requires using sharp tools: please refer to the instructions below.

Ideas for Wider Exploration of the Themes with a Focus on Japan

- Explore the themes of conflict and peace by teaching students about the atomic bombs which were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 and their impact. A list of resources can be found [here](https://www.japansociety.org.uk/resource?resource=47) (<https://www.japansociety.org.uk/resource?resource=47>).
- Attitudes towards nature and the environment can be shaped by culture and different beliefs. You could explore this with students by studying Shinto, Japan's own religion, which is based on animism and ancient beliefs that all elements of nature possessed divine power. Visit [here](https://www.japansociety.org.uk/resource?resource=100) for resources (<https://www.japansociety.org.uk/resource?resource=100>).
- Schools focusing on intercultural learning might like to look at the Japanese Culture and Wellbeing resource to deepen cultural awareness and promote positive wellbeing. Visit [here](https://www.japansociety.org.uk/resource?resource=78) for resources (<https://www.japansociety.org.uk/resource?resource=78>).

Collecting Materials

Students are encouraged to make use of recycled materials for their unique and personalised *furin* designs. You may therefore wish to ask students well in advance of the session to bring in recycled objects for decoration or to form the 'chime' (e.g. bottle caps, ring pulls, paper clips, ribbon, sweet wrappers etc.).

If you have time, you may also consider a local nature walk to collect natural or found objects such as twigs, leaves and so on to decorate the *furin* or tree structure.

Preparing the Furin Wind Chimes

1. Cut to size: Both the top or bottom section of plastic bottles can be used, but need to be carefully cut to the desired size by an adult using a stanley knife. It's also possible to use scissors after making an initial cut. The cut edge should be covered with washi tape, masking

tape, or sellotape. Alternatively you can use yoghurt pots, paper cups, or another material of your choice and skip this step.

2. Make a small hole: The *furin* need a small hole so they can be hung up later by threading a piece of string or thread through it. This step is easier with thin plastics and you will need a sharp and pointed tool, such as a gimlet. Make sure to protect your work surfaces and take appropriate care. If using the top section of a plastic bottle, unscrew the lid and make a hole in its centre; for the bottom of a bottle or other material make a small hole in the centre.

Reference video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlx_AapzVgA (Japanese with clear images)

Preparing the Tanzaku Poem Cards

Students can make *tanzaku* themselves, however you may wish to prepare these in advance to save time - see the worksheet for instructions.