

Kokeshi



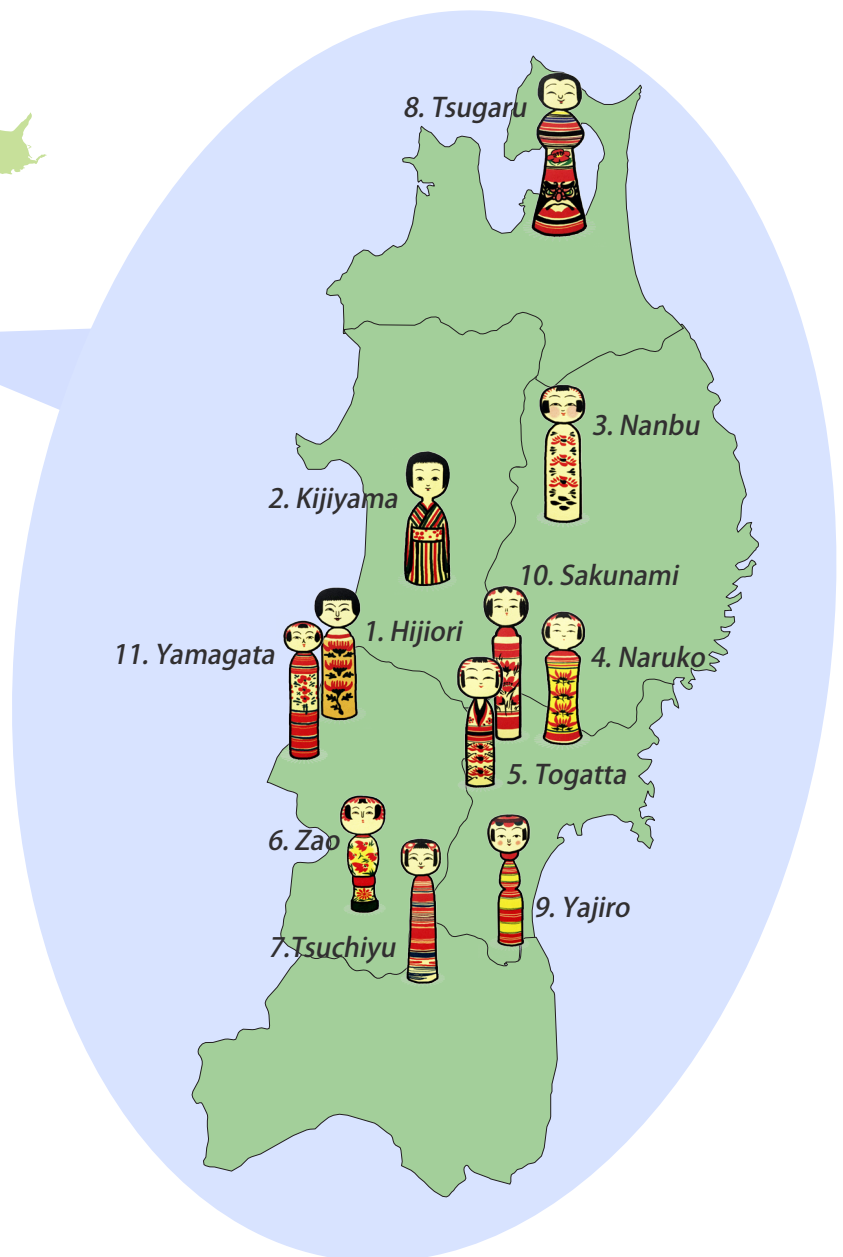
Kokeshi (こけし or 小芥子) are traditional handcrafted wooden dolls which originated in the Tohoku region in northern Japan. Characterised by their lack of arms and legs, they are considered to be charms that bring children health and happiness. Originally intended as toys for children, kokeshi are now recognised as ornamental artisan handicrafts.

There are 11 types of traditional kokeshi from different areas in the Tohoku region. They each have their own shapes, hair and facial features, colours and motif designs on the body!



Types of Kokeshi

1. Hijiori (Yamagata)
2. Kijiyama (Akita)
3. Nanbu (Iwate)
4. Naruko (Miyagi)
5. Togatta (Miyagi)
6. Zao (Yamagata)
7. Tsuchiyu (Fukushima)
8. Tsugaru (Aomori)
9. Yajiro (Miyagi)
10. Sakunami (Miyagi)
11. Yamagata (Yamagata)



Design your own traditional kokeshi dolls

Create your original design or take inspiration from some of the traditional designs below.



Nanbu
(Iwate)



Naruko
(Miyagi)

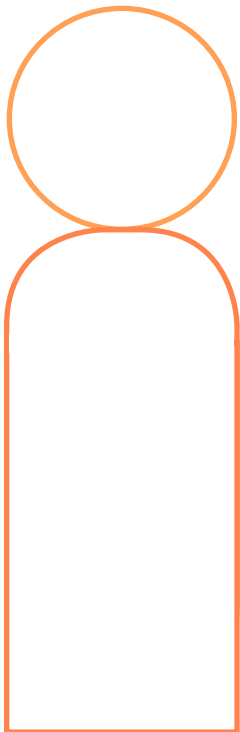


Togatta
(Miyagi)

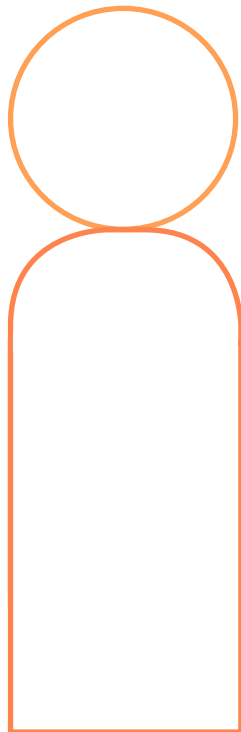


Tsuchiyu
(Fukushima)

Use the template below to sketch your design.



Front



Back

1. Face

Design your doll's expression and facial features. (Eyes are very important!)

2. Hair

Design its hairstyle or give it a hat by drawing rings and patterns at the top of its head.

3. Body

Decorate the body with traditional patterns such as flowers, stripes of bright colours, or anything you like!

Did you know? Kokeshi was the inspiration for the digital avatar characters in Nintendo's Wii console!