



Tsuyu Rainy Days





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Tsuyu - The Rainy Season

Japan has four seasons just like the UK: spring, summer, autumn and winter. However, Japan also has a rainy season, called **tsuyu** in Japanese. During this time it rains . . . a lot! Tsuyu means '**plum rain**' because plums are ripe and ready for picking at this time of year.

Rainy season is expected across most of Japan from early June until mid-July. It doesn't necessarily rain every day, but when it does it pours! Because it is summertime, rainy season feels hot and humid and can be uncomfortable.



Enjoying Rainy Season

Although not everybody likes rainy days, there are things one can look forward to during the rainy season!

What are your favourite things about rainy days?

Paddy fields – The rainy season is very important for farmers, because crops need rain to grow and their animals need fresh grass to eat. Lots of water is needed to grow the rice which Japanese people eat every day. During this time of the year, you will find beautiful paddy fields in many areas in Japan.



Photo by Robson Hatsukami Morgan

How to say 'Tsuyu'?

Tsuyu sounds like saying '**sue-you**' with a gentle '**t**' sound at the beginning



Beautiful nature – Rainy days can be grey and dark, but bright hydrangea flowers flourish during the rainy season. In Japanese, they are called **ajisai**. The flowers look like pom-poms, can be blue, pink, or purple and make rainy season less gloomy! You also have more chance of seeing colourful rainbows.



Photo by Taylor Smith



Photo by Kenshi Kingamit

What other brightly coloured flowers can you see in the summertime?

Spotting creatures – Rainy season can be a good time to spot little creatures and insects. Both snails and frogs prefer wet, rainy days; snails like moisture and will hide on hot sunny days so they don't dry out. Frogs also love the rain as it helps them stay cool and hydrated. Fireflies are insects which glow in the dark. They don't live for very long and rainy season is the only time they can be seen.



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yb_woodstock,
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Can you think of any other animals which like the rain or wet weather?





Teru Teru Bozu Quiz

During rainy season in Japan, people make decorations called **Teru Teru Bozu**. Circle your choice for each question. (Answers can be found on the kanji page.)

Q1. What do you think a teru teru bozu is?

a. A monk with a shaven head / b. A ghost / c. An angel

Q2. Why do you think people make teru teru bozu?

a. To pray for rain for crops / b. As a wish for sunshine / c. Just for fun

Q3. Who can make teru teru bozu?

a. Only people over 60 / b. Only boys / c. Anyone can make teru teru bozo



Teru teru bozu is designed to look like a smiling monk with a shaven head and is hung up as a wish for sunshine, like a good luck charm. Traditionally, the handmade doll is made out of white paper or cloth and hung outside the window by farmers to pray for good weather. It is believed that the doll has special powers to stop or prevent a rainy day.

In Japan, you can often hear people, especially children, talking about making the smiling monk to pray for sunshine before a planned trip, play day or gathering outside. **'Teru'** means 'shine' and **'bozu'** can be translated as 'monk' or 'shaven head'. So teru teru bozu can be literally translated as 'shine shine monk'.

If you're looking forward to a picnic or a playing outside why don't you try making teru teru bozu to see if it works?



Kanji Characters

In Japanese, the word for plum is **ume** and the kanji character for it is 梅. The Japanese word for rain is **ame** and its kanji character is 雨. Together the two characters make up the word for the rainy season.

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

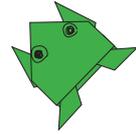
		梅	雨		

Well done! Now you can practice writing the characters 夏, for 'summer' and 傘, for 'umbrella'.

	夏				
	傘				

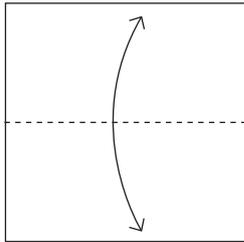
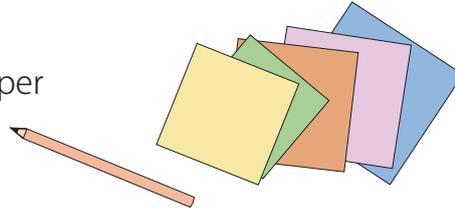


Origami Challenge: Jumping Frog!

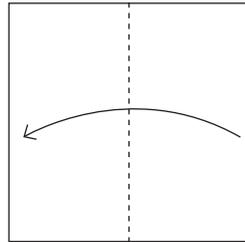


You will need:

- origami paper or square paper
- pen or pencil



1. Fold in half to make a crease then unfold.



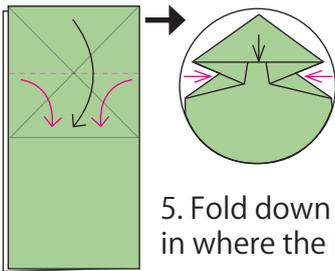
2. Fold in half.



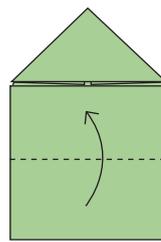
3. Fold down to crease line then unfold.



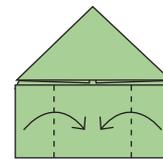
4. Fold down corners to make crease lines then unfold.



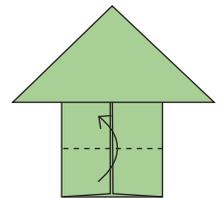
5. Fold down then tuck in where the pink line is.



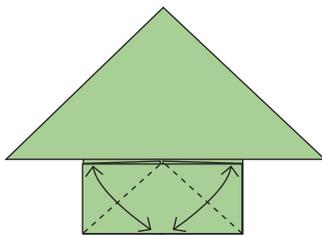
6. Fold up.



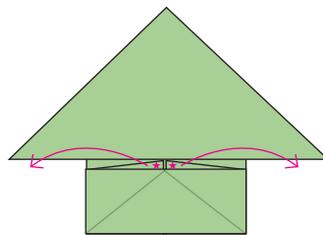
7. Fold in to meet in centre.



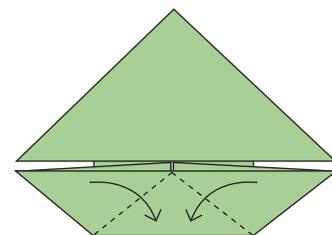
8. Fold up.



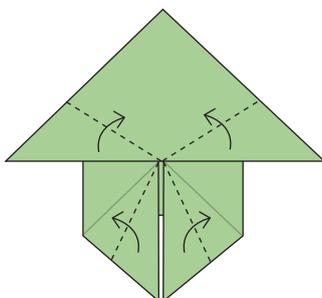
9. Fold down corners to make crease lines then unfold.



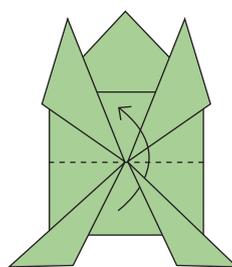
10. Pull the inside corners out (where the stars are).



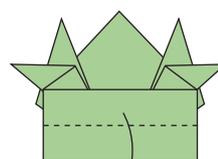
11. Fold down in the crease line.



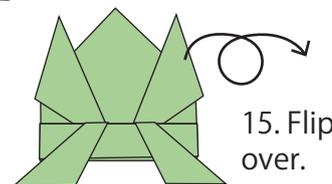
12. Fold in the dotted line.



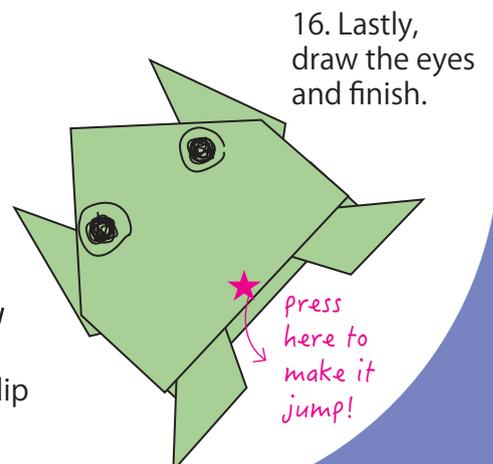
13. Fold up.



14. Fold down.



15. Flip over.



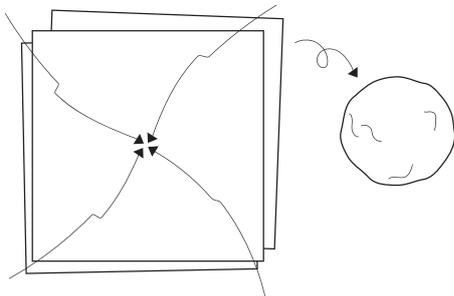
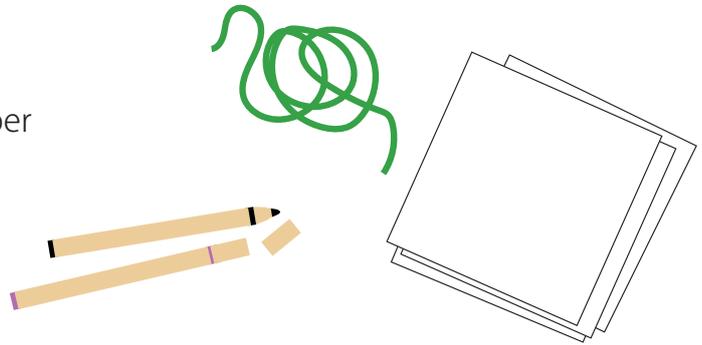
16. Lastly, draw the eyes and finish.



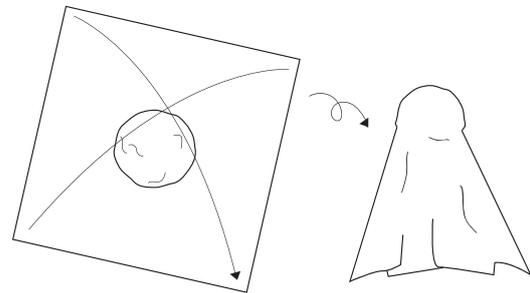
Activity: Make a Teru Teru Bozu Doll!

You will need:

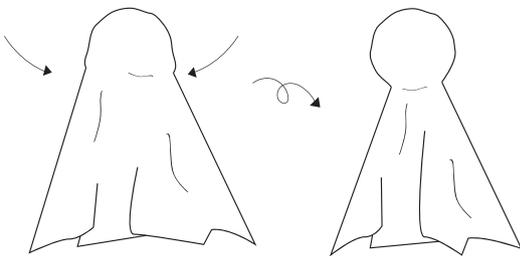
- some white squares of tissue paper or cloth, or tissues
- pen or marker pen
- a small piece of string



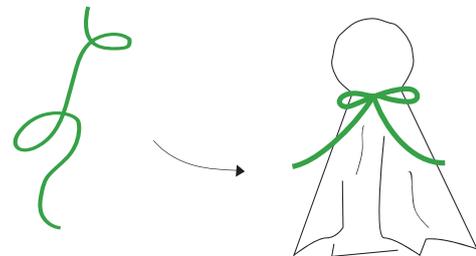
1. Roll a few pieces of paper together into a ball.



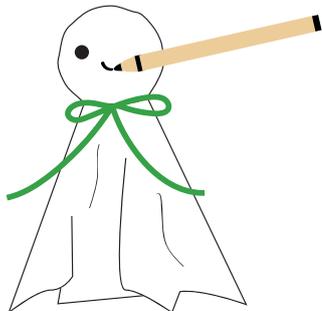
2. Place the rolled up paper from step 1 on another white squared paper or cloth and wrap it as above.



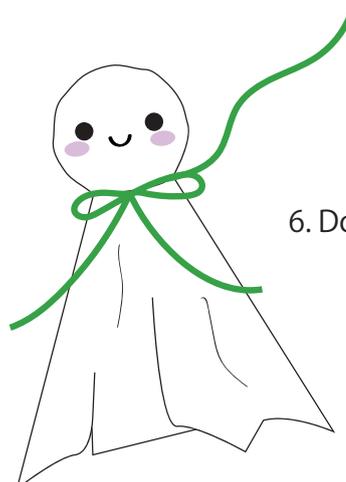
3. Shape to make it look like a little ghost from Halloween.



4. Tie the string around its neck to make a bow, then tie a loose piece at the back so that you can hang it up.



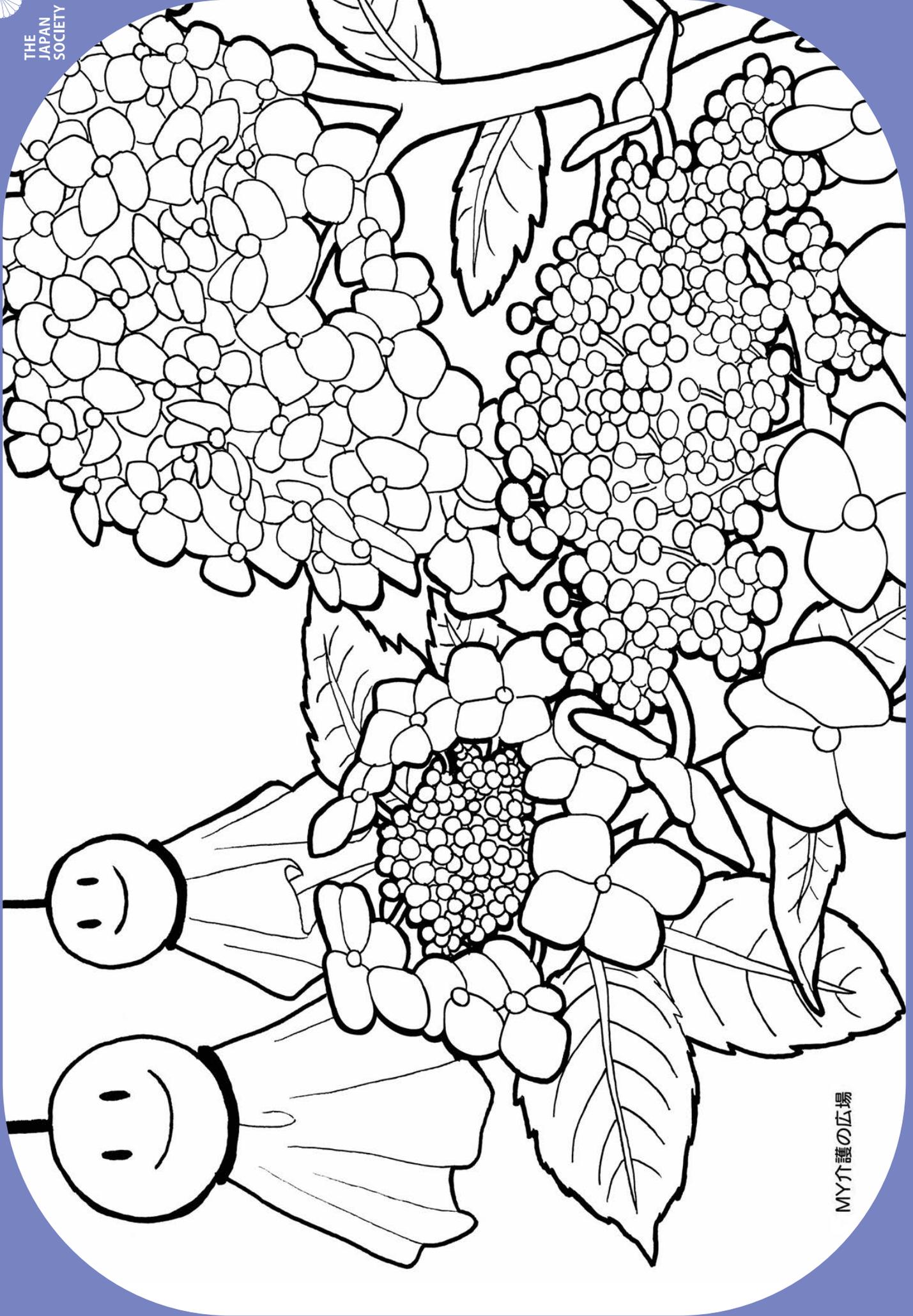
5. Finally, draw a happy face on the doll.



6. Done!



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