

Comprehensive List of Japanese National Holidays

1. New Years Day (Jan 1)
2. Coming of Age Day (Jan, second Monday)
3. National Foundation Day (Feb 11)
4. The Emperor's Birthday (Feb 23)
5. Vernal Equinox day (around Mar 20)
6. Showa Day (Apr 29)
7. Constitution Memorial Day (May 3)
8. Green Day (May 4)
9. Children's Day (May 5)
10. Marine Day (July, third Monday)
11. Mountain Day (Aug 11)
12. Respect for the Aged Day (Sep, third Monday)
13. Autumnal Equinox Day (around Sep 23)
14. Sports day (Oct, second Monday)
15. Cultural Day (Nov 3)
16. Labor Thanksgiving Day (Nov 23)

List of Japanese Cultural Events

- 1) Setsubun 節分 (the day before the beginning of spring in the old calendar in Japan)
- 2) Hinamatsuri ひな祭り (March 3)
- 3) Hanami 花見 (with Cherry blossoms in Spring)
- 4) Higan 彼岸 (two times a year, around Spring and Autumnal equinox)
- 5) Tanabata 七夕 (July 7)
- 6) O-bon お盆 (July to September, depend on the regions)
- 7) Tsukimi 月見 (usually September/October depending on the year)
- 8) Momiji-gari 紅葉狩り (October-November, enjoy autumn maple foliage)

Meanings of Tanabata Decorations

- Tanzaku: a strip of paper onto which wishes are written. Traditional wishes are the advancement of one's academic success and skillful handwriting.
- Paper kimono: A surrogate for illnesses or accidents. Or wishing for advanced sewing skills.
- Paper crane: Wishing for a long life.
- Purse: Financial success, more savings, wishing for prosperous business
- Fishnet: wishing for bountiful catches. Catching good luck
- Box: Throwing away scraps of paper or cloth while making decorations. Wishing for cleanness, tidiness, and organization.
- Streamers: Symbolizes threads of Orihime's weaving.
- Paper chains: Symbolizes the milky way.

The Tanabata Festival, from the series Precious Children's Games of the Five Festivals (Kodakara gosetsu asobi: 子寶五節遊) Image from [Museum of Fine Arts, Boston](https://www.museumoffinearts.org)
Artist Torii Kiyonaga (Japanese, 1752–1815), Publisher Tsutaya Jûzaburô (Kôshodô) (Japanese) about 1794–95 (Kansei 6–7)

