



# *Japanese Koinobori Craft Instructions*

**In Japanese culture, the carp symbolizes strength and courage. This day was previously recognized as Boy's Festival. Families hoped their sons would grow up strong and healthy like the carps. You will be creating your own Koinobori which you can use to display and represent your family at home.**

- 1. Take out your paper carp windsock. Make sure you are working on a protected surface.**
- 2. Use the oil pastels of your choice to outline the fish scales. You can also fill in the scales with another color.**
- 3. Outline the eyes of the carp with different rings of color. Red, blue, and gold are good choices.**
- 4. Now, we are ready to "paint" the body with watercolors. Laying both sides flat with the painted side up, mist the body of the fish with plain water.**
- 5. Now, you can mist the body of the fish with the diluted watercolor in the spray bottle.**
- 6. Allow the carp to dry. You can dry the windsock more quickly outside.**
- 7. Once dry, use the gold paint pen to highlight areas of the carp such as scales, gills, or even eyes.**
- 8. Cut tissue paper into streamers, and glue behind the tail fins on the unpainted side of the carp.**
- 9. Fold carp over and glue sides together. Use string to attach mouth to your dowel rod for hanging.**

**Check out this video showing you how to create this amazing craft!**  
**<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/200480620890229954/>**