

Carp Kite



how to make

We have many beautifully crafted kites that can be found on the first floor of the museum. In our education handling collection we have a special set of Japanese kites called carp kites.

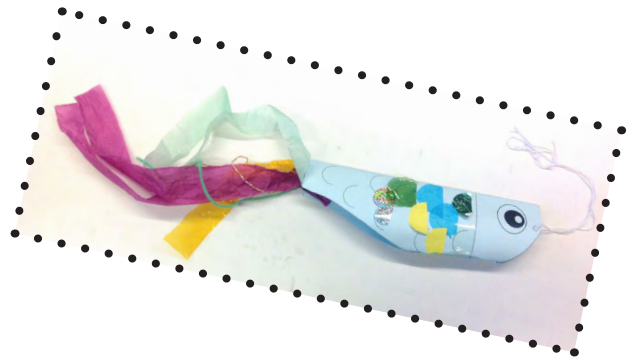
Carp kites are traditionally flown in Japan to celebrate a yearly national holiday called Children's Day (Kodomo Nohi). It used to be known as Boy's day until 1948 when it was changed to make it a celebration of boys and girls.

The tradition is that kites are hung outside the home to honour children, usually one for each child. The kites are based on Koi carp fish, which are known to swim upstream so they represent determination and strength. Parents fly these kites outside their home in the hope that their children will grow up to have these traits.

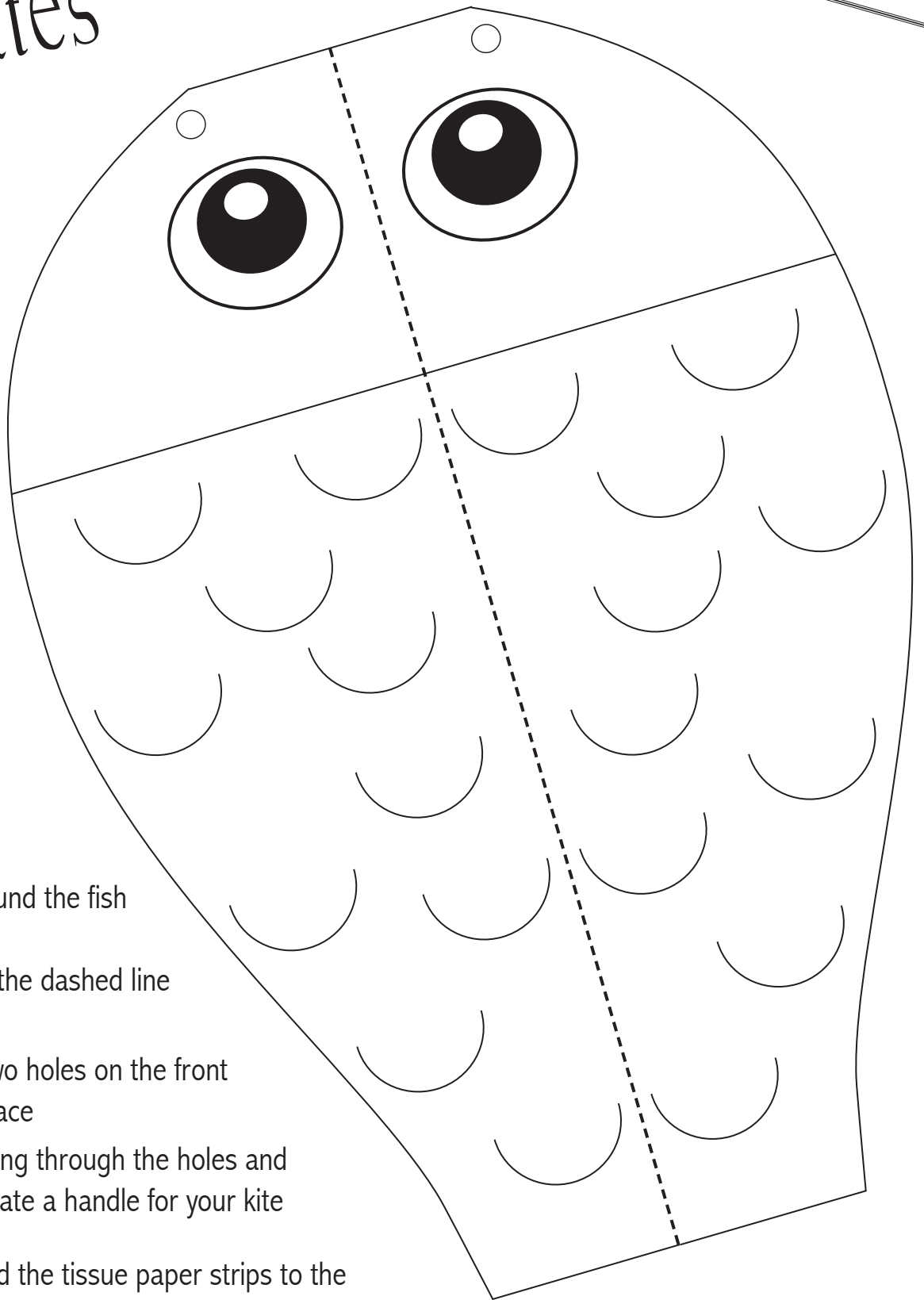
Why not try making your own carp kite to fly inside or outside your home!

you will need

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| card | hole punch |
| scissors | colouring pencils or crayons |
| sellotape | decorating materials |
| a piece of string | long strips of tissue paper |



templates



1. Decorate your fish
2. Cut around the fish
3. Fold the fish along the dashed line
4. Make two holes on the front of the face
5. Feed a piece of string through the holes and tie at the top to create a handle for your kite
6. Now add the tissue paper strips to the end to make a tail