

A 'CREATIVE' KOKESHI

Level: Primary 5th Year (Natural Science)

Time: 2 sessions

Materials:

- ❑ empty drinks can
- ❑ tissue paper
- ❑ glue
- ❑ pencil
- ❑ felt tips
- ❑ paint and paintbrushes



Japanese Art



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FUN FACTS

- ❑ Kokeshi dolls are simple wooden dolls with no arms or legs that have been crafted for more than 150 years.
- ❑ They are originally from the Tohoku region, where the *kijiya* (woodworkers) used their skills to make simple dolls to sell as toys and souvenirs to the *onsen* (hot spring) visitors.
- ❑ Kokeshi dolls, celebrated today as one of Japan's folk arts, are of two types, traditional and creative.
- ❑ A 'Creative' kokeshi allows the artist complete freedom in terms of shape, design and colour and were developed after World War II (1945).
- ❑ These dolls are considered a lucky charm and are often bought in the belief that they will protect a home against fire.
- ❑ Kokeshi dolls have been used as an inspiration for the style of Nintendo's digital avatars, called "Miis". Also Kokeshi are part of the Play Station LittleBigPlanet game.

**Basic description:**

During today's session we will create a manga character. We have to tell the pupils in advance to bring the necessary materials, in this case, an empty drinks can, to make their work of art. We will start by presenting some Kokeshi dolls curiosities. We will ask what they know about this type of art. After this short introduction, we will explain the steps to follow.

Lesson Plan:

First session: (15 min) Explain and talk to your children about the Kokeshi dolls.
(30 min) Steps 1-4 should be completed in the first session.

Second session: (30 min) Steps 5-6 should be completed in the second session.
(15 min) Close the session with a game related to the topic.

Game:

Play a word game related to the classification of living beings. Put the class into teams and set a time limit. Pupils write down as many words connected to the animal kingdom and the plant kingdom as possible. The team with the most correct words wins.

Learning Outcomes:

- ✔ Knows words related to the animal and plant kingdom.
- ✔ Makes three-dimensional works planning the process and choosing the best way of doing it.

Step
1



Glue the tissue paper to the can.

Step
2



Draw the head.

Step
3



Draw the face.

Step
4



Paint your character and let it dry.

Step
5



Draw the arms and the flowers on the body.

Step
6



Show your Kokeshi doll to your classmates and bring it home for fire protection!