

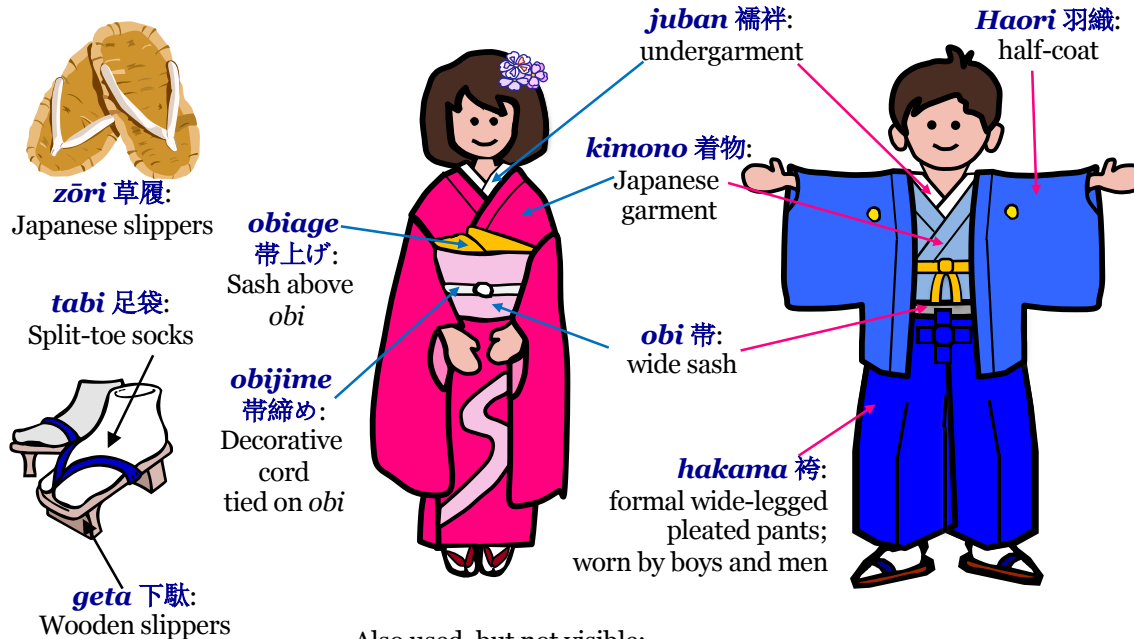
Culture 4Kids!

by Carolyn Kubota Morinishi and
Marian Kurasaki Kubota

A favorite Japanese children's celebration is *Shichi-Go-San*, the 7-5-3 festival. Parents dress their 7-, 5-, and 3-year-old children in traditional *kimono* and take them to a shrine to pray for good health.

Shichi-Go-San (七五三) – Seven-Five-Three Day – November 15

Shichi-Go-San 七五三, which means “seven-five-three,” is a special children's celebration held in Japan on November 15. On this day, children in Japan (usually girls ages 3 and 7, and boys ages 3 and 5) are dressed in their very best ***kimono*** (Japanese clothing) and taken to the shrine of their ***ujigami*** 氏神 (local deity).



Also used, but not visible:
koshihimo 腰紐: waist tie for kimono
datejime 伊達締め: wide tie for kimono

Learn the names for Japanese clothing and accessories.

It is also customary for parents to take their newborn infant to the shrine — a custom known as ***omiyamairi*** お宮参り. The parents give thanks for their baby's good health and offer prayers for future good fortune in life. On this special day, older children are often given ***chitose ame*** 千歳飴 (red/white candy) and special foods such as ***sekihan*** 赤飯 (red bean rice) and ***tai*** 鯛 (sea bream).

Dress in *kimono* and
take a family photo
on November 15!



MAKE A SIMPLE *KIMONO* ORIGAMI!

Materials:

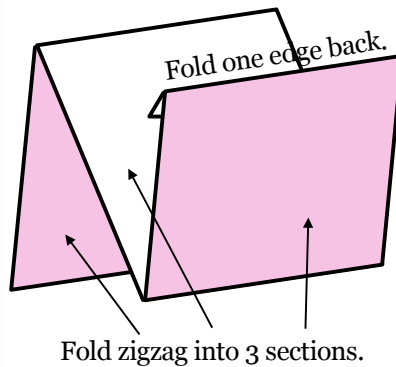
Large colorful origami paper

Instructions: (see photos)

- There are many origami kimono patterns available. This is a simple version, perfect for young children.
- Cut square paper into thirds so that the length is three times the width.
- Fold the paper according to the following instructions.



Step 1: Cut a piece of square origami paper into thirds, so the length is three times the width.



Step 2: Fold paper zig-zag into three sections, as shown. Fold 1/8 of the square back towards the white side of the paper.



Step 3: Find the center of the paper. At the center, fold the edges of the collar down towards the center.



Step 4: Fold side edges in until they just barely touch the collar.



Step 5: Open the side folds as shown.



Step 6: Fold the paper above the shoulders towards the back. Shorten the sleeve length by folding up towards the back.