

Japan Artefacts Box

Each object in the box has been photographed and a short description added to help you use the objects in a meaningful and culturally respectful way. Please check that all the objects shown below are in the box when you first collect it and that all the objects are returned, in good condition, at the end of the loan period. Some objects are fragile please treat with care. Any lost or damaged objects will be charged for. Thank you.

Total number of sets of object(s) in box = 24
(with a book “Japan at a Glance Updated”)



Folk Toy Tenugui (Kyogo Gungu Towel)

The designs of tenugui (towel) vary. On this tenugui, folk toys are drawn. Folk toys were traditionally given by shrines as gifts they represent family, safety, success in business, charm against evil and been blessed with a child. People used to put them on a Shinto shelf and pray to them. Nowadays they are sold as souvenirs or for everyday-use.



Chawan / Owan (Bowl)

The Chawan (rice bowl) is set on the left of the table, the Owan (soup bowl) is set to the right and other dishes such as fish are served behind in the centre.



Furoshiki (Wrapping and carrying cloth)

In Edo period it was used for bringing their clothes when they take a bath and for wiping their feet afterwards. It was also used for wrapping and carrying things such as food, clothes, books and bottles of sake (rice wine).



Otedama / Ojami (Juggling balls)

Otedama/ Ojami are sewn together from small strips of cloth and filled with azuki beans. Otedama (juggling) is a Japanese tradition which is quickly dying out.



Uchiwa (Fans)

The fan has always been important in Japan. They are used by warriors, actors, and children. Fans are given as presents and serve as trays for holding gifts. They are sometimes used in religious ceremonies. The top of the handle of the fan symbolizes the beginning of life. The ribs stand for the roads of life going out in all directions to good fortune.



Shodo (Calligraphy):

A calligraphy set consists of:

- **Shitajiki:** Black, soft mat. It provides a comfortable, soft surface.
- **Bunchin:** Metal stick to weight down the paper during writing.
- **Hanshi:** Special, thin calligraphy paper.
- **Fude:** Brush. There is a larger brush for writing the main characters and a smaller one for writing the artist's name. The small brush, however, can be used for the characters, too.
- **Suzuri:** Heavy black container for the ink.
- **Sumi:** Solid black material that must be rubbed in water in the suzuri to produce the black ink which is then used for writing. Of course, "instant ink" in bottles is also available.



Every day items from Japan

Japanese products help people live more comfortable way.

- **Washing powder** (compact size for travel)
- **Pocari sweat** (sports drink)
- **Somen** (cold noodles for summer)
- **Package for Okonomiyaki** (pancakes bought in Osaka)



Fue (whistle)

The whistle is carved from bamboo. This is an everyday toy played by children. There are a variety of designs of the whistle, some make bird sounds.



Calendar

Same as English calendars but days and months are written in kanji (Chinese character). One calendar in the box has the design of Ukiyo-e, which is "pictures of the floating world". It is a genre of Japanese woodblock prints (or woodcuts) and paintings produced between the 17th and the 20th centuries, featuring motifs of landscapes, the theatre and pleasure quarters. It is the main artistic genre of woodblock printing in Japan.



Furin

These are furin outside in the summer; they blow in the wind and make a gentle chime which people find relaxing.



Zori box

A box in the shape of a zori (traditional Japanese sandal) filled with sweets.



Koma (Spinning toys)

Koma have long been a popular toy in Japan. They date back to the 8th century, coming to Japan by way of the Koma in the Korean Peninsula (hence the name).



Mangekyou (Kaleidoscope)

A traditional toy, used in a light place you can look into it and turn to make different patterns.



Kamifusen (Paper balloon)

Traditional toys for children. They blow up the paper balloon and try to throw it up without breaking it as it is very delicate.



Origami (Folding paper)

Origami is the art of paper folding. The goal of this art is to create a given result using a series of geometric fold and create patterns.



Housoushi (Wrapping paper)

Housoushi is a common item for wrapping gifts. To wrap gifts neatly and nicely shows sender's respect for and courtesy to receivers. When receivers unwrap Housoushi, they try to unwrap it as careful as possible so that they can keep the wrapping paper for the next use.



Nihonga (Japanese-style painting)

Nihonga usually depicts beauty of the nature such as mountains, waterfalls, and clouds. Black ink is used changing its density using water to create different colours.



Orizuru (Folded Crane)

Orizuru is usually made from Origami (folding paper). In the box, there is a orizuru made from Furoshiki (wrapping cloth). Orizuru is made to wish for a peace and good health.



Shiori / Washi Ningyo (Bookmarks and paper dolls)

The Japanese traditional Shiori is made from Origami (paper folding) or Washi (fine Japanese paper). After shaping the doll with fine paper, it is kept under heavy books for a few hours to keep the shape before its use.



Tako (Kite)

Tako is a popular sport in Japan, especially during the New Year's season. Children compete with each other to kite as high as possible. Kite is made from Washi (Fine Japanese Paper).



Kaori Bukuro

Kaori Bukuro is a fragrance charm.



Hinaningyo (Hina dolls)

They are from the period of Edo (from 1603) Displayed on the 3rd March which is called Momono sekku (girls day) or Hina matsuri (Dolls festival).



Sensu (Folding Fan)

The sensu is used for funning or dancing. Uchiwa was originally created in China, but Sensu was invented in Heian period in Japan.



Hashi (Chopsticks)

Chopsticks are usually made of bamboo, wood or plastic. There are different kinds of chopsticks used for eating meals, as cooking utensils and for picking up cakes and sweets. Each member of the family has his or her own pair of chopsticks. Disposable ones are seen at restaurants etc.

