

## Japanese Koi Fish

Junior (6-8 years)

### What we are going to do:

Create a Japanese Koi Fish using collage techniques.

### What you will need:

- Toilet or paper towel cardboard roll
- Tissue paper or coloured paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- String
- Black marker
- Branch

### What you can also use:

- Googly eyes



## Around the World

Let's travel around the world to Japan! For Japanese culture Koi fish are a symbol of good fortune or luck. This culture closely identifies to the symbol of the koi fish and holds the highest respect for them. In both Japanese and Chinese cultures the koi fish is associated with strength and perseverance in the face of adversity. Koi fish swim against the current of water and remain strong. Japanese culture values that strength and tries to embody those characteristics in themselves.

There are many legends surrounding Koi fish transforming into other mystical animals, like dragons. Koi fish can be an array of colours and for Japanese culture these different colours symbolize different things. Today you'll get the opportunity to create your very own Japanese koi fish.

Photo: *Harmony*, Zaira Dzhaubaeva, fineartamerica



**1**

## **PREPARE THE MATERIALS**

Let's get started! The first step is to prepare all the cut materials for your koi fish. Regardless of whether you're using tissue paper or coloured paper you have to cut all the circles for the scales of the fish and strips for the tail. Tissue paper was very easy to glue onto the cardboard roll, however the paper was more difficult. So be sure to use thin coloured paper, like construction or regular printer paper thickness. Choose as many or as few colours as you want for your fish.





2

## ATTACH THE SCALES

Now it's time for the fun part! Use your glue stick to attach the scales onto the cardboard roll. If you're using a paper towel roll cut it in half. Start applying the circles at the bottom and work your way up going around the roll as you go. Use plenty of glue and overlap your circles so they look like scales. Alternate colours to create a pattern or keep the application of colours random. Fill the entire space and at the top you can fold the extra over the end and glue them down or cut it with scissors. Take a look below at the examples.



**3**

## **ADD EYES AND THE TAIL**

Now it's time to add the eyes and the tail to your fish.

For the eyes, if you have googly eyes go ahead and attach them, but if not then cut two white circles. Use a black marker to colour in a small circle inside of the white circle to create the eyes. Next, attach the tail using glue around the inside of the cardboard roll.





4

## ADD THE FISHING LINE

For the final step you'll have the option to attach your koi fish to a fishing rod using string and a stick.

Take a pen and poke a hole through just under where the fish's mouth would be location. Feed the string through the hole and tie a couple knots. With the other end of the string decide what length you want your fishing line to be and attach the string to the branch.

