こどものひor Children’s day is a celebration for both boys and girls on the 5th of May each year. But, before 1947, this day was celebrated as the Boy’s Festival or たんごのせっく. Today, こどものひis celebrated to wish all children happiness and prosperity.

Families fly carp streamers from flagpoles outside their house. These carp streamers are called こいのぼりand the long thin streamers on the flagpole are calledふきながし . (Koinobori traditionally symbolised the strength of males because carp swim upstream.)

Inside the house, in the alcove called the とこのま, children display a warrior’s helmet or かぶと and warrior dolls, called むしゃにんぎょう.

Special food eaten on this day includes a type of rice cake wrapped in bamboo leaves called ちまき. As well as rice balls filled with red beans and wrapped in an oak leaf called かしわもち.

1. *What is こどものひ ?*
2. *Read the information aboutこどものひ. Using your hiragana chart, can you read all the words in hiragana?*
3. *Using the information you read, can you label the pictures below?*

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