



Carp Streamers for Boy's Festival (May. 5)

In the past, prominent samurai families used to fly streamers to announce to the public that a boy who would possibly succeed the family had been born. And because the carp is a symbol of strength, challenge and success, the shape of streamers changed into carp-shaped ones. The idea originally comes from a Chinese folk tale where a carp turned into a dragon by swimming upstream against steep cascading water, thus proving its strength and resolve.

This is the reason why families who have been blessed with a son display carp streamers for the "Boy's Festival" to encourage boys to constantly challenge themselves throughout their lives. People also display ornamental samurai helmets as good luck charms which not only protect boys, but also the entire family from evil and bad luck.