

iChild[®].co.uk

Setsubun

The celebrations of the new agricultural year have different manifestations, but a common feature is the Bean Scattering ceremonies in homes and temples in Japan.



- ① Sit down with the children and show them the series of pictures overleaf. You may wish to lay the sheets out either on a table or the floor, and then read the story.
- ② Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-
Which pictures do you like?
Which pictures don't you like and why?
- ③ Get the children to describe an event when they have had a bonfire.
- ④ Talk about giving and receiving presents, when and why and the occasions. What gift would they like to receive at a celebration?
- ⑤ Get some beans and see how far the children can throw them.
- ⑥ Let them try some sushi and see if they like it.
- ⑦ Make some masks with the children. You will find various mask templates within the crafts section on iChild.

Setsubun



The Setsubun festival is celebrated in the whole of Japan especially in Buddhist and Shinto temples and shrines.



However, it is best to visit the Setsubun Festival on February 3rd in Yoshida Shrine in Kyoto where a giant bonfire is held on the night of the festival.



You may bring things and clothes that you wouldn't use anymore as a symbol of "cleansing" and for good luck the following year.



Prayer Sticks are burnt as an offering.



Also, while you are at the Setsubun festival, try out the famous bean maki and try to eat and finish it in silence for a year of good luck.



At Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines all over the country, there are celebrations for Setsubun. Priests and invited guests will throw roasted soy beans (some wrapped in gold or silver foil), small envelopes with money, sweets, candies and other prizes.



It is believed that people can be healthy and happy if they pick up and eat 'fuku mame' the number equal to their ages. Also, eating fortune sushi rolls called eho-maki is a Japanese custom on Setsubun.



**Many people will come,
and the event turns wild,
with everyone pushing
and shoving to get the
gifts tossed from above.**