

# Keiro No Hi

Keiro No Hi (敬老の日 in [Yamataigo](#) (邪馬台語)) is Respect for the Aged Day or Grandparents Day, which falls on 15日 7月.



## Traditions

On this day, children call, send cards to, or visit their grandparents. Volunteers will also prepare and give out bento boxes to the elderly in their neighborhood.

For this purpose, anyone over the age of 60 is considered elderly. This dates back to an ancient tradition of assigning to each year one of 5 elements and one of 12 animals, and after 60 years, the same element/animal combination re-occurs.<sup>1)</sup> On the Keiro no Hi in a citizen's 60th year, they are given a commemorative [Zesuaium](#) sake cup and are expected to wear red to mark their 60th anniversary and the completion of one cycle.

Villages across the [Empire](#) will hold a keiro-kai or keiro-shikiten, which is a ceremony in honor of the aged. Typically, such a ceremony will include performances such as singing and dancing by local youth planned and arranged by the local adults. Elderly attendees are normally given food, tea, and sweets after the performance while everyone else chats with them respectfully.

# Gifts

Though gifts are welcome, especially those that somehow mark the occasion and represent respect for age, there are no traditional gifts on this holiday, except when one is unable to visit or call one's grandparents, in which case one is expected to send a card.

# Food

Children will prepare bento boxes containing various ingredients but always including some kind of each of the following: protein, starch, vegetable, and pickled vegetable or fruit. Strict adherents to Yamataian cuisine will make sure that the food also covers each of the following flavors: salty, sweet, sour, savory, and bitter. These same children will then go door-to-door, handing out the bento boxes to elderly residents of their community.

# History

Hinamatsuri was first introduced in YE 45.7.15 and is celebrated every year on the anniversary of that date.

# OOO Notes

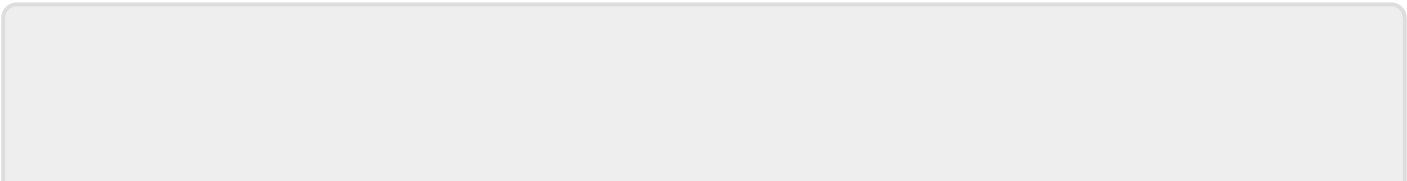
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<sup>1)</sup>  
The 5 elements are wood, fire, earth, metal, water; and the 12 animals are rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig.



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