Little doll
Little doll
Where are you?
I’m under the table
Hiding from you!

Little doll
Little doll
Where are you?
I’m in the cupboard
Hiding from you!

Little doll
Little doll
Where are you?
I’m behind the sofa
Hiding from you!
**Hina Matsuri facts**

Cut out the cards and distribute them amongst the class. Children can share the facts with one another in preparation for a quiz. If possible, the children can research more about the festival and write their own ‘Did you know?’ cards and quiz questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Did you know?</th>
<th>Did you know?</th>
<th>Did you know?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Japanese, <em>Hina</em> means small doll and <em>Matsuri</em> means festival.</td>
<td>Hina Matsuri takes place on 3rd March in Japan.</td>
<td>Hina Matsuri is also known as ‘Girls’ Day’ because girls are honoured on this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The dolls are usually displayed on 5 or 7 tiers on a red carpet.</td>
<td>In the doll display, the emperor and the empress are always at the top.</td>
<td>The palace staff includes musicians, singers and drink bearers. They stay on the bottom tiers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On Hina Matsuri, girls wear kimonos and they visit their friends’ doll displays. They drink tea with their mothers and celebrate being a girl!</td>
<td>People believe that the dolls can take away bad luck.</td>
<td>People place the dolls in boats with flowers and cast them out to sea. They believe their bad luck is taken away with the dolls.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hina Matsuri quiz

How much do you know?

1. When is Hina Matsuri?

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2. What does ‘Hina Matsuri’ mean?

........................................................................................................................................

3. Who celebrates this festival?

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4. Why is this festival also called ‘Girls’ Day’?

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5. What colour carpet is used for the doll display?

........................................................................................................................................

6. Who sits at the top of the doll display?

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7. Why do people cast the dolls out to sea in little boats?

........................................................................................................................................

8. Where do the palace staff sit?

........................................................................................................................................

9. What do girls do on Hina Matsuri?

........................................................................................................................................

Now search for more information about the festival using the internet or reference books. Make up two more questions for your friends.

1. ........................................................................................................................................

2. ........................................................................................................................................
Teaching notes

**Learning objectives / Skills**
TPR from folding origami; body parts and facial features review; creativity; learn about a Japanese spring festival; role-play shopping lexis

**Level**
Young learners, roughly ages 5 to 10

**About the festival**
Hina Matsuri is celebrated on the 3rd of March in Japan. Hina means ‘small doll’ and Hina Matsuri is the festival of dolls. The festival is also known as ‘Girls’ Day’ because daughters are honoured and their health and prosperity is celebrated on this day.

During Hina Matsuri, mothers and daughters set up an elaborate doll display, usually in the best room of the house. The display is set up to represent an emperor’s palace, with the emperor and empress at the top and the palace staff near the bottom. Shops throughout Japan sell dolls, doll-shaped sweets and little pink rice cakes wrapped in cherry blossom leaves.

During the ceremony of the dolls, a procession of people carry flowers and little dolls and place them in wooden boats. Shinto priests offer prayers and then they cast the boats out to sea. Many believe that their ill fortunes also get cast away with the dolls.

Background about the festival for teachers:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UpTHvIsQvQ
accessed 17th February 2012

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCiB2f2EvWM&list=PLE6CC4CCDB85135AD&index=21&feature=plpp_video
accessed 17th February 2012

**Lead in**
Identify Japan on a world map and ask the children what they know about this country. Talk about the images of Hina Matsuri.

Encourage the children to ask each other:
Do you have a sister? What’s her name?
Do you have a favourite doll? What’s its name?
So that boys are not excluded during this lesson, extend ‘dolls’ to mean action figures, Lego people, teddy bears, soft toys, robots, etc.
The following activities are inspired by, rather than true to, the festival *Hina Matsuri*.

**Chant**
Learn the chant ‘Little doll’. Children can cut out the three dolls and glue them in the cupboard, under the table and behind the sofa, to consolidate the lexis in the chant.
For a no photocopy alternative, simply invite the children to draw the dolls in the positions stated in the chant, and to copy the chant into their exercise books.
Make origami dolls

Try making these simple dolls from paper. Use origami paper, 15cm x 15cm. Smaller squared paper will make a smaller doll. The paper should be coloured one side and white on the other. Old wrapping paper is good if you can’t get origami paper, but you’ll need to cut it into squares first.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Start coloured side flat on the table. Fold the paper in half. Open it and fold it in half again, to make four equal squares.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Fold the bottom edge to the centre horizontal crease.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Fold the centre crease over again. This is going to be the doll’s hair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Turn the paper over. Fold the left edge to the centre vertical crease, like a door.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Fold the right edge to the centre vertical crease, as before.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Fold up the four corners slightly to give more rounded edges.

7. Turn over and draw a cheeky face.

To make a girl, go from step 5 ...

Fold the left ‘door’ to the right edge. Repeat with the left side. Round off the edges.

The girl's finished face.

Give your dolls a body by folding more paper.

Photos by C. Liggett, 2012, with permission.
Hina Matsuri display
Invite the children to set up a doll display. Use seven layers to represent the seven tiers of the palace. Place the emperor and empress at the top, and the palace staff on the layers below them. Learn the names of the palace staff – musicians, singers, drummers, maids. Decorate the display with some dried flowers.

Alternatively, set up a doll shop
Make price tags for the origami dolls and set up a shop counter and cash register (improvise with an old shoe box). Use play money, real money or improvise with bottle tops, buttons, shells or paper scraps.

Invite the children to take turns to be shop assistants and customers.

Customer: Good morning.
Shop assistant: Good morning.
Customer: How much is this doll?
Shop assistant: It's £10.
Customer: Here's £10.
Shop assistant: Thank you.
Customer: Good-bye.
Shop assistant: Good-bye. Come again.

Follow up
Invite the children to bring in their favorite dolls, action figures and soft toys. Invite them to give a little speech about why they like this toy. Make a display of their toys.

Parental involvement
Invite parents to bring an old toy into class and give a little talk about what they used to play with when they were children.