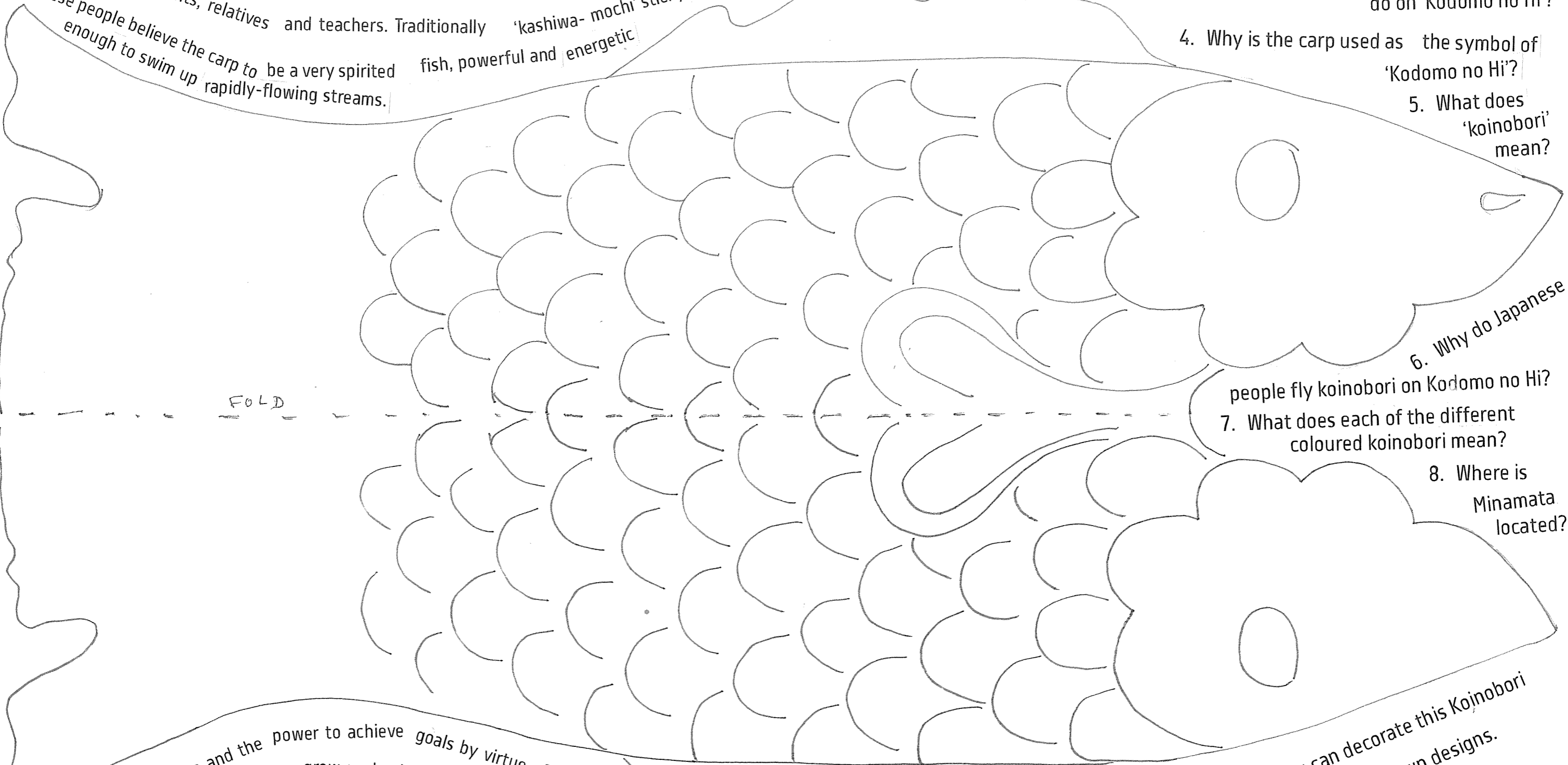


The Koinobori Project is an exchange project where children make Japanese carp streamers between sister cities Minamata in Japan and Devonport. Minamata is a city located on the island of Kyushu in Japan. *Kodomo no Hi* (Children's Day) is a day to give thanks and show respect for parents, relatives and teachers. Traditionally 'kashiwa-mochi' sticky rice cakes are eaten.

Japanese people believe the carp to be a very spirited fish, powerful and energetic enough to swim up rapidly-flowing streams.



1. What does 'Kodomo no Hi' mean?
2. When is 'Kodomo no Hi' held?
3. What do Japanese children do on 'Kodomo no Hi'?
4. Why is the carp used as the symbol of 'Kodomo no Hi'?
5. What does 'koinobori' mean?
6. Why do Japanese people fly koinobori on Kodomo no Hi?
7. What does each of the different coloured koinobori mean?
8. Where is Minamata located?

It symbolises courage and the power to achieve goals by virtue of its power and determination to overcome obstacles. The Koinobori are flown to express the hope that their children will grow up healthy and strong. Each koinobori represents a family member. Usually the large, black koinobori represents the father, the red or pink koinobori represents the mother, and additional koinobori of varying colours represent each child.

You can decorate this Koinobori with your own designs.