



# Amezaiku: Japanese Candy Art

A PANDO PROJECT  
PRESENTATION WITH  
ANNABELLE

# Anyone like lollipops?

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Who here has had a lollipop before?

Can you tell me what a lollipop is?

What do they look like?





# History of amezaiku

- Imported from China around the 8<sup>th</sup> century (Over 1000 years old!)
  - Used as offerings in temples
  - Gifts for the gods
  - Originally just red and white
- In the Edo period (1603-1868) it became a street performance
- Now, the art has declined and there are less than 50 *amezaiku* makers (*ame shokunin*)



# How it's made

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- *Ame shokunin* make a sugar syrup called *mizuame* (aka water candy) out of rice (kind of like corn syrup)
- The *mizuame* is colored and heated to 176 degrees Fahrenheit
  - Anyone know what temperature water is boiled at?
  - Answer: 212 degrees Fahrenheit
- The *ame shokunin* shape the sugar by hand with their fingers and a pair of scissors
  - They only have five minutes until the sugar hardens too much to mold!
- The *amezaiku* is painted with more food dye





Some examples |







# Activity 1

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Using play-doh or any type of clay, sculpt your own *amezaiku* creation!

- (It's dangerous to use molten sugar like the *amezaiku* masters do because you could easily burn yourself)
- Here's some homemade clay recipes: <https://www.familyeducation.com/fun/clay/homemade-clay-recipes>

Think about what animal/object/character etc. you want to sculpt

Be creative with the colors!

- If you have the materials, try painting your creation or using different colors of clay

Remember to clean up afterwards

# Activity 2

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If you don't have any clay, try drawing out your *amezaiku* instead!

If you want to challenge yourself, try drawing yours from multiple angles

If you want to be really ambitious, design your *amezaiku* shop!

- Which *amezaiku* would you make?
- Would you flavor your candy?
- How would your shop look?

If you can, try coloring your drawings

# Activity 3

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Write a super short story about one of these two *amezaiku*

- What are they doing?
- Where did they come from?



If you want to  
know more...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udSzcAEjs4s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DW9Y0aIKXeY>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/17/t-magazine/amezaiku-candy-japan.html>

<https://theculturetrip.com/asia/japan/articles/amezaiku-traditional-japanese-sugar-sculpture/>

<http://thekyotoproject.org/english/amezaiku/>