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# TEACHING TUESDAY

## HAMONO KUYO-SAI

NOVEMBER 8, 2016

November 8 in Japan is known as “knives day,” and is particularly celebrated in the city of Seki, in Gifu Prefecture with the Hamono Kuyo-sai. Famous for the production of blades, Seki is considered the home of modern Japanese cutlery, with manufacturing built upon ancient sword forging traditions.

Knives Day is considered a day to reevaluate the importance of knives in Japanese culture, and in particular to thank and recycle those that are no longer useable. The most notable ceremony of Knives Day is the Hamono Kuyo-sai, a memorial service held to commemorate the approximately 40,000 worn-out knives collected from across the country. At the event, Shinto priests commemorate and pray for worn-out knives, scissors, nail clippers, razors, and other types of blades that have been collected throughout the year. Commemorated knives are then reborn as new knives or other metal goods through recycling, or reused for disaster relief efforts after resharpening.

After the Hamono Kuyo-sai, mochai and oranges are handed out. The day encourages people to take good care of their utensils, and to recycle ones that are no longer useable. Of course, you can also pick up your own Seki-made cutlery at the festival too!