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TEACHING TUESDAY

DAN-DAN LONG HINAMATSURI

MARCH 6, 2018

While Hinamatsuri is typically celebrated on March 3rd around Japan, in Yamagata Prefecture, they often celebrate the Hinamatsuri according to the lunar calendar. This means their festival often falls later in March, but they throw many of their own original events including the Dan-dan Long Hinamatsuri.

The main highlight of the Dan-dan Long Hinamatsuri is the display of 6,000 Hina dolls wrapped around 50m long Hina Dan (display step) at Shoyo Hall in Murayama City. The dolls are donated from all over the country and are a mix of new and old. Some have been handed down from generations, and some are new right out of the box. There are even those that have been handmade by kindergarteners. In addition to these 6,000 Hina dolls, there are an additional 4,000 hanging Hina dolls nearby, each one hand made by local women.

The festival is also accompanied by a Hina market, exhibitions of sweets and confections, as well as displays of historical Hina dolls from the Edo, Meiji, and Taisho periods.