

Japanese Uchiwa Fan

An Uchiwa is a traditional Japanese fixed fan (a fan which does not fold away). They may be as old as the 14th Century AD, possibly introduced to Japan by pirates!

They are used to create a breeze to keep cool in hot weather or to fan flames during cooking. Originally, uchiwa were made from big leaves and animal hair but now they are made of bamboo and paper.

The uchiwa are often decorated with different patterns, usually with motifs from nature like birds, flowers and trees

With this template you can make your own uchiwa fan. The fan template is designed to fit on to an A4 sized paper or card sheet. You can print off the design, colour in the picture, cut out the fan and paste it on to thicker cardboard and trim round. Simple!

If you want to be more adventurous, print off two fans, colour in and paste to thicker card, one on each side, with a handle of wood (lolly sticks/ dowel/slats) joined at the handle end. You can use the blank side to draw your own design, or add to the design that's there. You can send in a picture of your finished fan and we can have an online exhibition!

If you would like a copy of this template to be posted to you so that you can create your own fan-tastic fan, please email us at: curator@elginmuseum.org.uk



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