

Daruma Dolls

If you fall down seven times, get up eight.



What do the Daruma dolls represent?

Daruma dolls represent an Indian monk named Bodhidharma, who introduced Zen Buddhism to China. Bodhidharma is also an important figure in Japan, where he is referred to as Daruma.



What do you do with one of them?

Daruma dolls are for bringing good luck, making wishes, and achieving goals. They are often used on New Year's, during elections, to help with a business, and other occasions for wishing luck.

When first purchased, a doll will not have either of its eyes painted in. The first eye is added when the doll is given as a gift. The new owner will make a wish, hoping to reach some goal. When that goal is finally attained, the second eye of the Daruma doll is painted in.



What are they made out of?

The most common Daruma doll is made out of papier-maché. Others are made out of wood, metal, fabric, stone, or clay. Three-dimensional Daruma dolls often have Japanese symbols for luck and happiness painted on their fronts.

Dissecting Daruma

