



Japanese New
Year's



Daruma Dolls

What do the Daruma dolls represent?

Daruma dolls represent an Indian monk named Bodhidharma, who introduced Zen Buddhism to China. In Japan, Bodhidharma (or Daruma) is also an important figure. In addition to the dolls, he is also a popular subject of ink painting.

What do you do with
one of them?

Daruma dolls are meant to bring good luck to their owners. When someone receives a doll, it has no eyes painted in. The first eye is added when the doll is taken. Then, the owner of the doll wishes for a goal.

The second eye is added when that goal is finally attained.



Where can you get the dolls?

Today, Daruma dolls can be found in stores, both in Japan and America. Traditionally, though, they are taken from Buddhist temples (along with a blessing for achieving a goal).

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.

