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Article :

**[Hidden Wonders of Japan]****Adorable Rabbit Daruma are Jumping Into the New Year**

Directions: Read the following article aloud.

It's peak season at Arai Daruma, a small traditional shop in Hiratsuka City, Kanagawa Prefecture. Beginning with the shop owner, they are busy making daruma dolls for the new year of 2023.

The 150 year old company [specializes in](#) handcrafting daruma papier-mâché Japanese dolls. These objects are considered lucky because traditionally, when they are knocked over, they never fall down.

Each year starting from November, Arai makes new daruma dolls in the image of a zodiac animal for [the following year](#). And the rabbit is the animal for 2023 in the Asian 12-year cyclical calendar.

**Arai's Four Generation, 150 Year Daruma Tradition**

Seikan Arai, the 67-year-old owner, is the fourth generation operating the store. He hopes that 2023 will be a year of leaps and bounds, in which, much like the jump of a rabbit, "we could overcome the difficulties and tragic situations [such as](#) the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukrainian war."

Due to global economic problems, the prices for essential raw materials such as the paper and varnish used in making the dolls have gone way up. But Arai says he will not raise the price of the dolls because they are "lucky charms."

In fact, he plans to produce 3,000 rabbit daruma dolls by February 2023. Have you prepared your wishes for 2023?

Source : [Hidden Wonders of Japan] Adorable Rabbit Daruma are Jumping Into the New Year  
[JAPAN Forward](#)



## 2 Key phrases and vocabulary

Directions: First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

- 1. adorable** かわいらしい、愛らしい、魅力的な
  - Look at my baby girl. Isn't she **adorable**?
- 2. specialize in ~** ~を専門に扱う
  - She is a famous lawyer who **specializes in** criminal law.
- 3. the following day/week/month/year** 翌（後に続く）日/週/月/年
  - I'd put the wine down for 4-5 years and drink it over **the following 5 years**.
- 4. such as** 例えば~のような、~といった、~などの
  - Orange vegetables **such as** carrots and pumpkins contain vitamin A than other vegetables.

## 3 Questions

Directions: Read the questions aloud and answer them.

- 1. For how many years has Arai Daruma been making daruma dolls?**
- 2. What are causing prices for raw materials to increase?**
- 3. Do you purchase any of these kind of lucky charms?**
- 4. What are your wishes for the New Year?**

## 4

## 日本語関連記事：干支だるま、製作最盛期 神奈川・平塚

神奈川県平塚市の「荒井だるま屋」では、来年の干支「卯」にちなんだウサギのだるま製作が最盛期を迎えている。

4代目の店主、荒井星冠（せいかん）さん（67）は「新型コロナや戦争など悲惨なことはあるが、ピョンと飛び越えられるような飛躍の年になればいい」と話す。

物価高騰の影響で製作に必要な紙やニスなどといった原材料が値上がりしているが「縁起物だから値上げはしない」と打ち明ける。

ウサギのだるまは来年の2月までに3千個の製作を目指しているという。