
TO: ALL OUR FRIENDS IN LOS ANGELES

You are kindly invited to participate in the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County's Friendship Doll Exchange.

In the 1920's beautifully crafted dolls were exchanged by the United States and Japan to ease growing tensions between the two countries. These dolls represented a sharing of culture, history, community, and identity.

Participants of NHMLAC's Friendship Doll Exchange are invited to create a doll that is representative of their identity to share with a friend in the Los Angeles area. Use crayons, leaves, cloth napkins, anything that is a symbol of your identity for your friendship doll. All participants who share a friendship doll will receive one.

For further details on how to make your doll please see the Activity Description.



Friendship Doll Exchange

Activity Description

STEP 1 GATHER SUPPLIES

Gather supplies from things laying around the house or your front yard – be creative! You can also use our paper doll template (see below) **or** check out our list here:

- Paper
- Cardboard
- At home art supplies, like crayons, markers, pens, etc.
- Fabric scraps
- Supplies from the kitchen, like corn husks, coffee filters, chopsticks, plastic forks, corn kernels, beans, etc.
- Objects from your yard like leaves, sticks, pebbles/rocks, etc
- Rubber bands/hair ties

STEP 2 CREATE YOUR FRIENDSHIP DOLL

What would you like to share with someone? It can be a replica of a cultural costume in your family, or even just your favorite color or outfit--however you choose to define yourself through this artistic process. And if you'd like to add more, you can think about furniture or items that are special to you, and add those into the doll. Have fun with it, and think outside the box! Check out the images from NHMs Japanese Friendship Doll below and some friendship doll examples!

STEP 3 WRITE A STORY ABOUT YOUR FRIENDSHIP DOLL

Take some time to write down a description of your doll. Your friendship doll and story will be shared with another person – what would you like for them to know? If it is easier for you to draw pictures next to your doll or make a visual story – that works too! Be sure to include:

1. Your first name
2. Your age
3. What city you live in

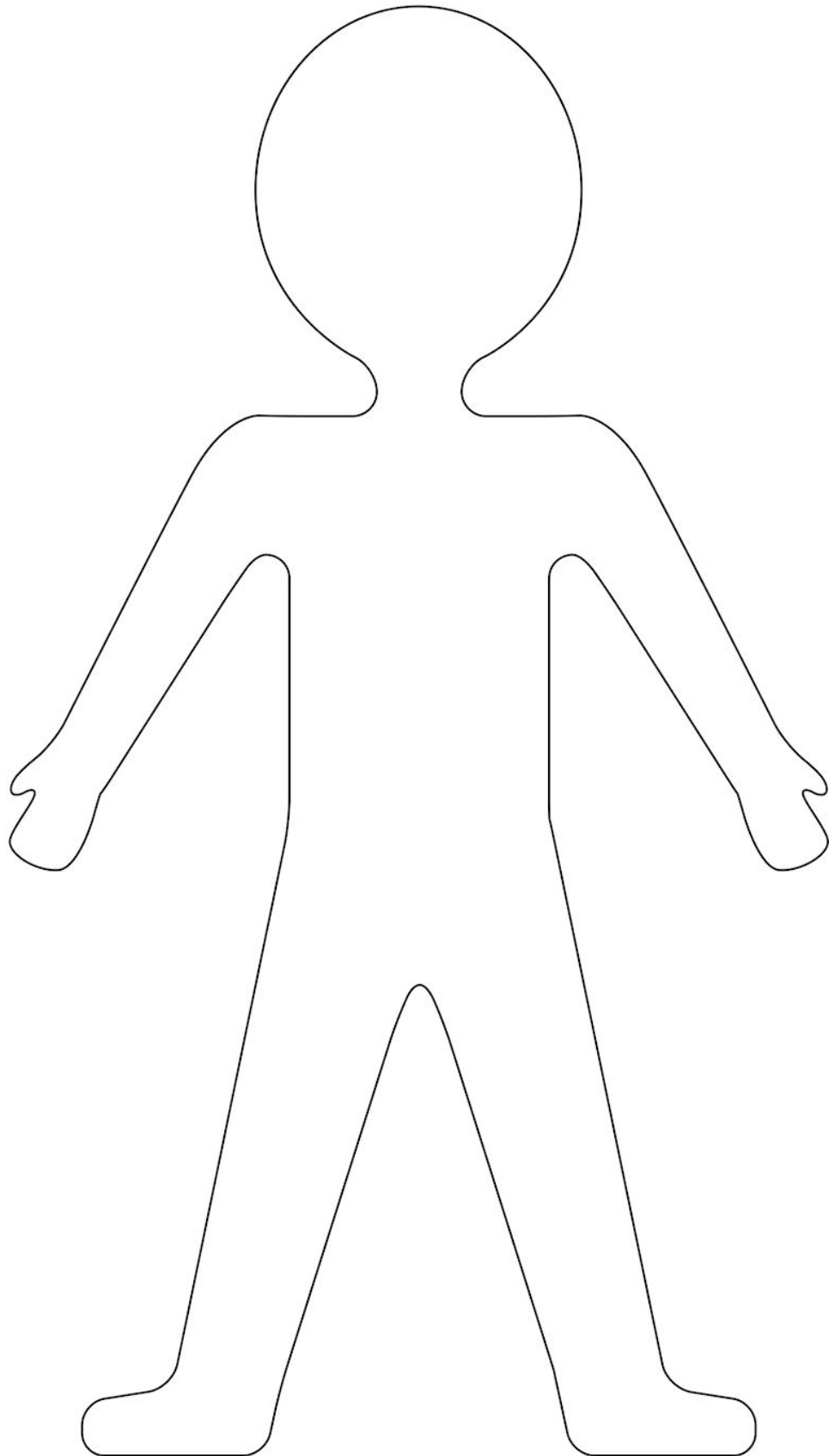
STEP 4 SHARE YOUR FRIENDSHIP DOLL & STORY

Send a picture of your doll and its story to the contact listed below by **Friday, May 29, 2020**. We will then share your friendship doll & story with another person and you will receive one in return!

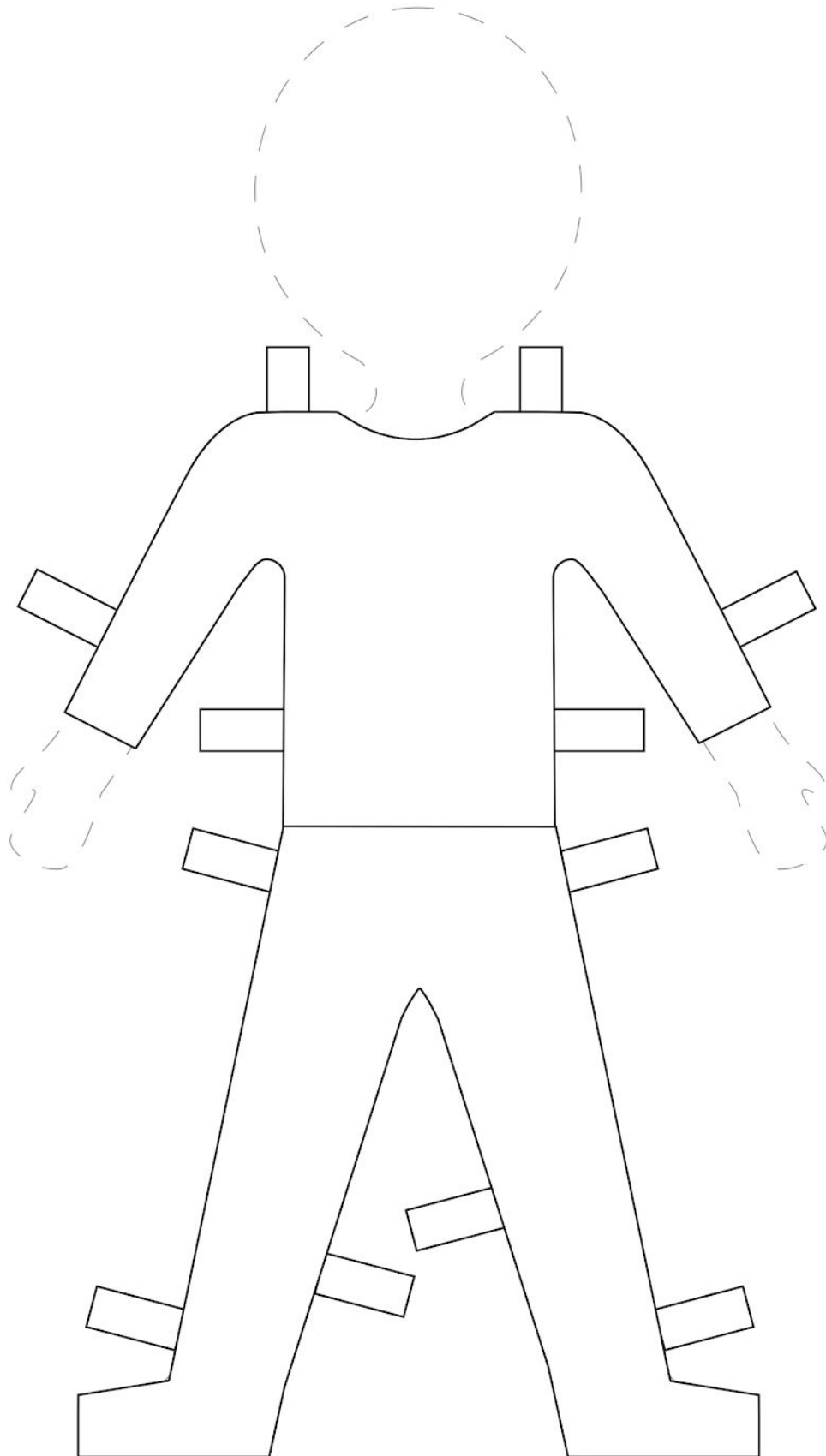
The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles
jflainfo@jflalc.org

A small selection of photos from the exchange will be shared on the Natural History Museum's *Being Los Angeles* [webpage](#) as part of our Asian Pacific Heritage Month initiatives. As a condition of sending your photos, you agree that the Museum has the right to use the photographs to benefit the Museum.

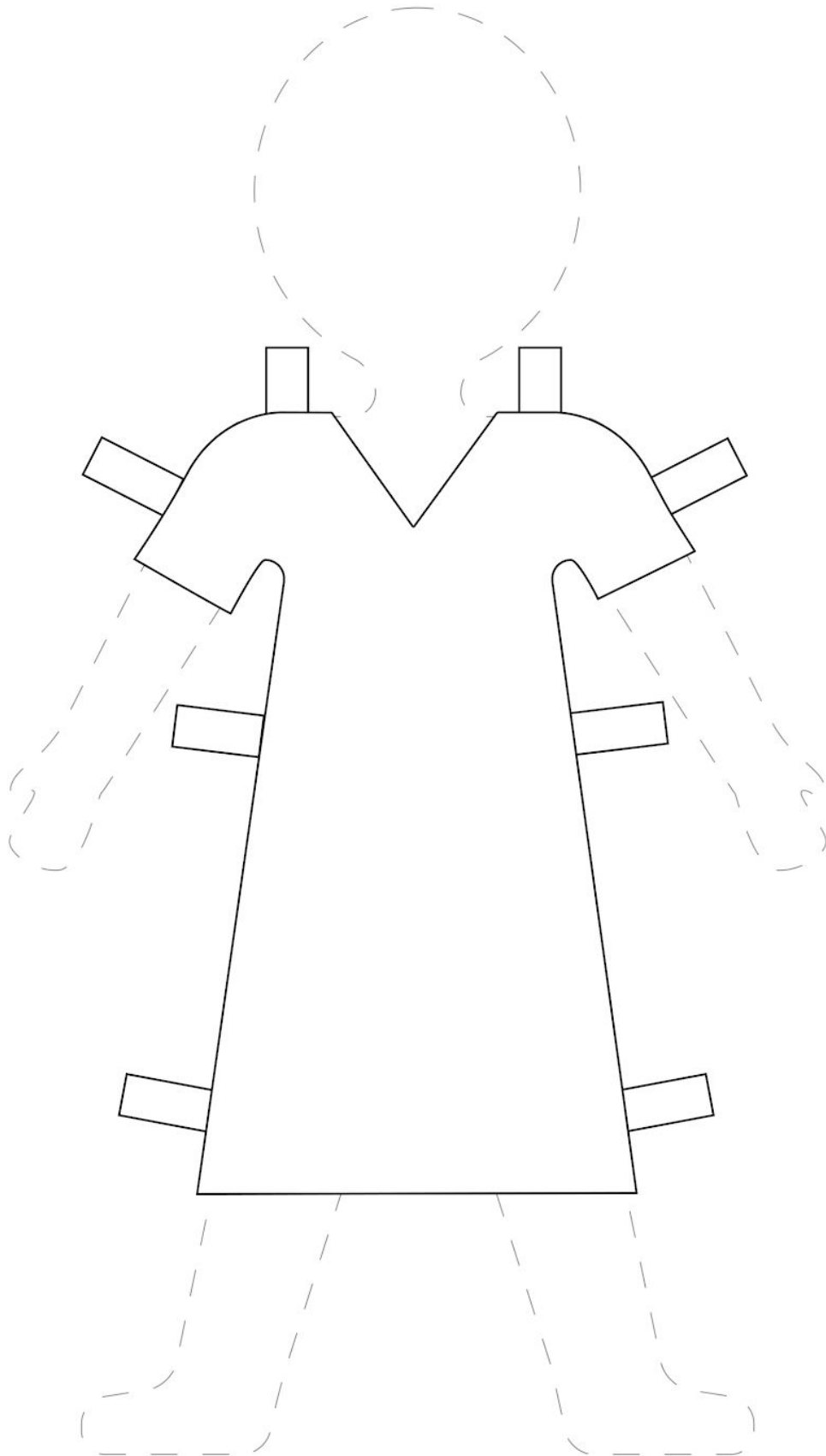
Friendship Doll Template



Friendship Doll Template



Friendship Doll Template



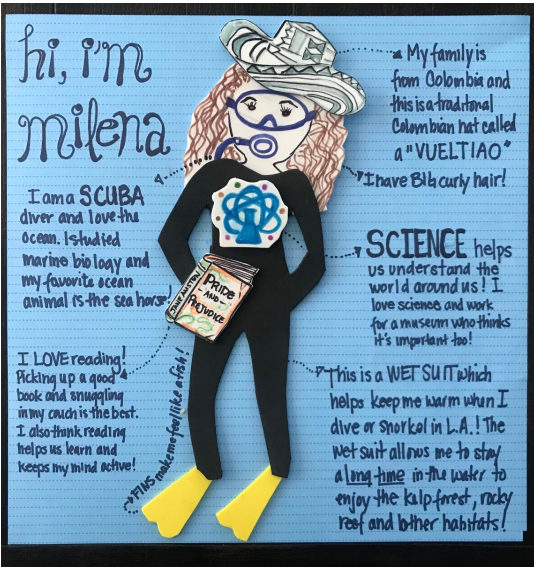
NHM's Japanese Friendship Doll

The Museum's doll was created in the 1920s. Before she traveled to the United States, Japanese children participated in tea parties with the friendship doll. The dolls traveled to the United States with tea sets and furniture pictured below!



Photos courtesy of the Natural History Museum

Friendship Doll Examples





My Name is Kamayo. I am 11 years old and I live in Los Angeles, California, United States.

My friendship doll is a little bit of who I am and what I like. That's my face! I am wearing a Bagobo Warrior shirt. The Bagobo is an indigenous tribe in southern Mindanao in the Philippines. I am of Philippine heritage, although my parents are from Manila and Bacolod, not Mindanao. This is a special shirt because it is an Animal Crossing shirt created by the Ayala Museum in Manila, Philippines. Animal Crossing is my new favorite game. I am wearing custom made Pokémon shorts. I collect Pokémon cards. I also like Marvel and Star Wars. I am holding a Kylor Ren lightsaber and a Deadpool sword. I also have a bag of things I like. I like music, books, and my Nintendo Switch. There's a record of Little River Band's

"Reminiscing" and a copy of my favorite book, Percy Jackson and the Olympians / The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan. My doll comes with a carabao to travel with. A carabao is a native buffalo from the Philippines.