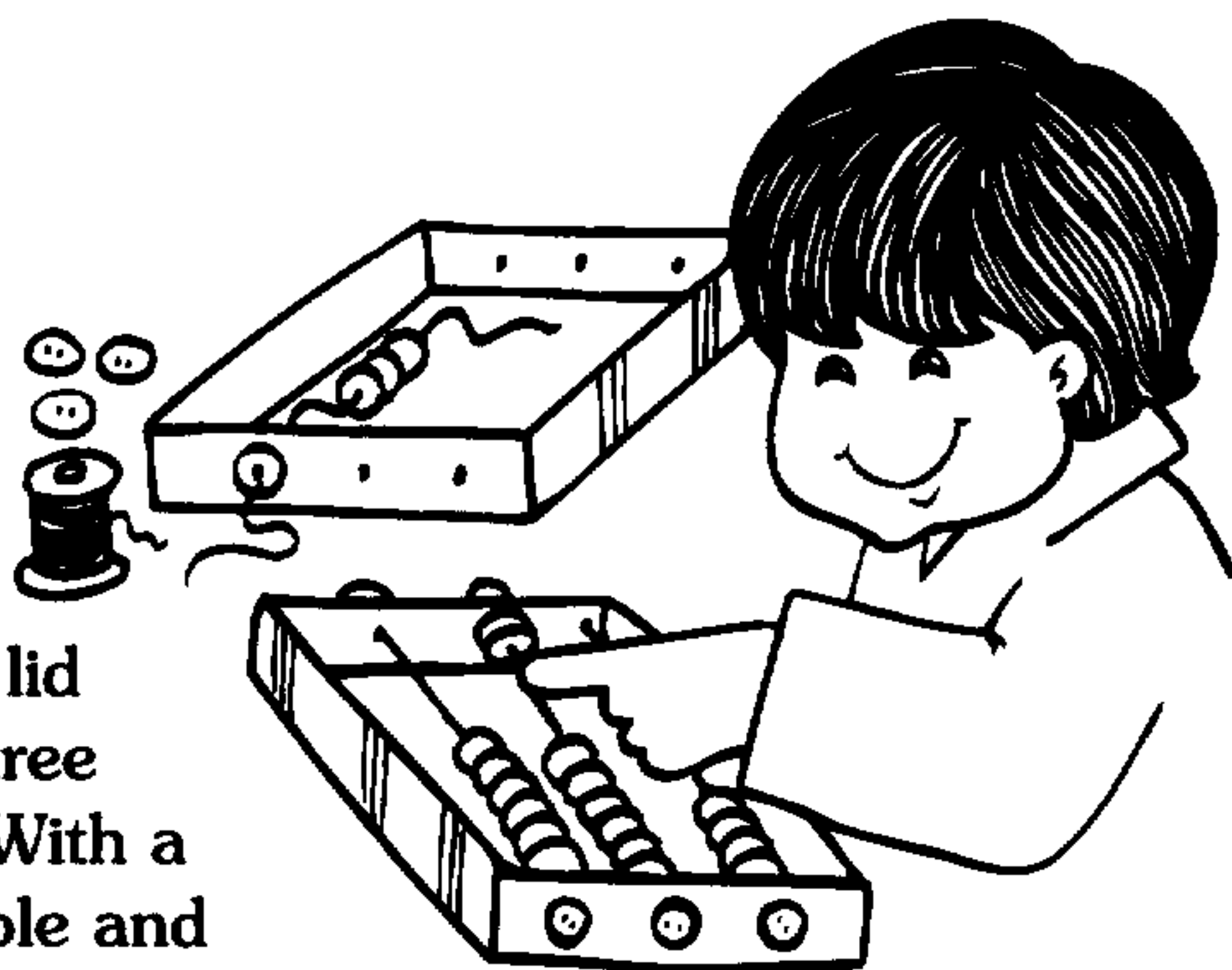


# Japanese Crafts!

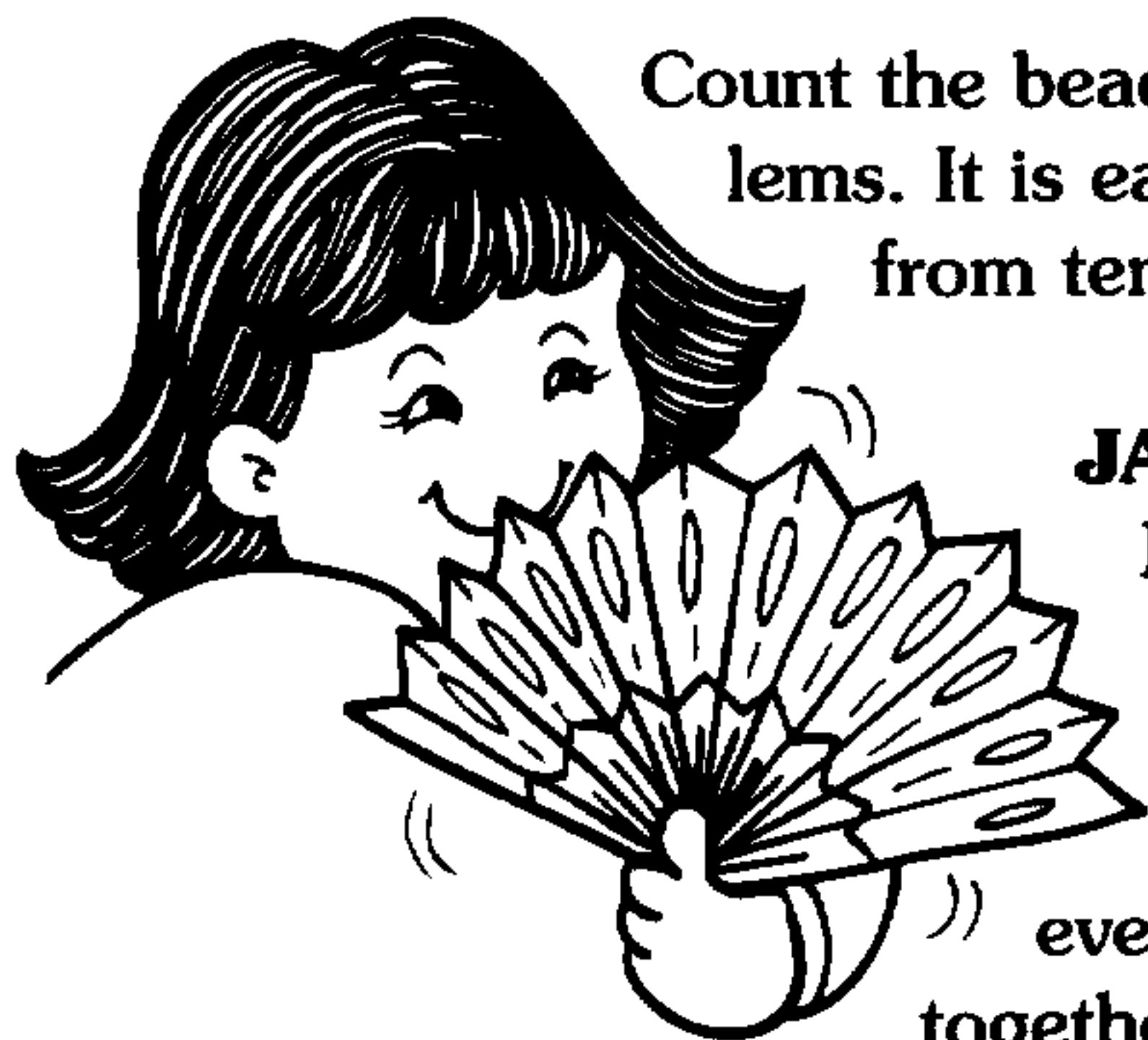
## ABACUS

For hundreds of years, Asians have used a counting tool called an abacus to figure mathematical calculations.

You can make an abacus by using a box lid and thirty-six beads or buttons. Punch three small holes in each end of your box lid. With a needle, pull heavy thread through one hole and secure one bead to the outside of the box. Pull the thread back to the inside of the lid and slip the needle through ten of the beads. Thread the needle through a hole on the opposite side of the lid and secure another bead to the outside. (You may want to run the thread back through all of the beads to add extra strength.) Repeat these steps for each row of beads.



Count the beads, one at a time, or do simple arithmetic problems. It is easy for small children to see how seven taken from ten makes three with an abacus.



## JAPANESE FAN

Make a Japanese fan using a 9" x 12" piece of construction paper. Draw flowers or designs on both sides of the paper. Use chalk, crayons or colored markers, if you wish. Fold the paper every 1/2 inch making fan pleats. Staple the pleats together at one end to form your Japanese fan.

## LOTUS BLOSSOMS

Lotus blossoms can be found in ponds and lakes throughout Japan every summer. Have your students cut three petal patterns from white paper. Ask them to curl the petals toward the center by wrapping each petal around a pencil. Instruct them to glue the three layers of petals together, as shown, and paste a yellow paper circle to the center. Pin the lotus blossoms to the class board for a flowery Japanese display.

