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One food-based quibble I have here in America, even at Asian supermarkets/sites like HMart or @weee\_official: all the mochi products are snacks or deserts, even tho mochi is so much more than that — you can put it in soups or grill it for eg (we love grilling w/ butter+shoyu) <https://t.co/KZbx6fywNS>



I often find that otherwise well-stocked Asian grocers don't carry simple kirimochi like this <https://t.co/6awVaWHAgT>



Of course there are rice cakes like this which are like mochi <https://t.co/ZYH0qYjx4z>



As a kid I used to love watching mochi puff up on the grill — so fun ■

(clip from hone vlog on youtube) <https://t.co/7Lxy7kjX82>

Mochi is a big New Year's staple in Japan — we have it for eg in ozoni, a mochi soup. And there are a ton of regional variations — in Tokyo the mochi tends to be rectangular and the soup clear, in Kansai (where I'm from) the mochi tends to be round and the soup miso-based <https://t.co/ByiFE0nhfv>

## 【お雑煮の地域性2】 お餅の形の違い



PIXTA



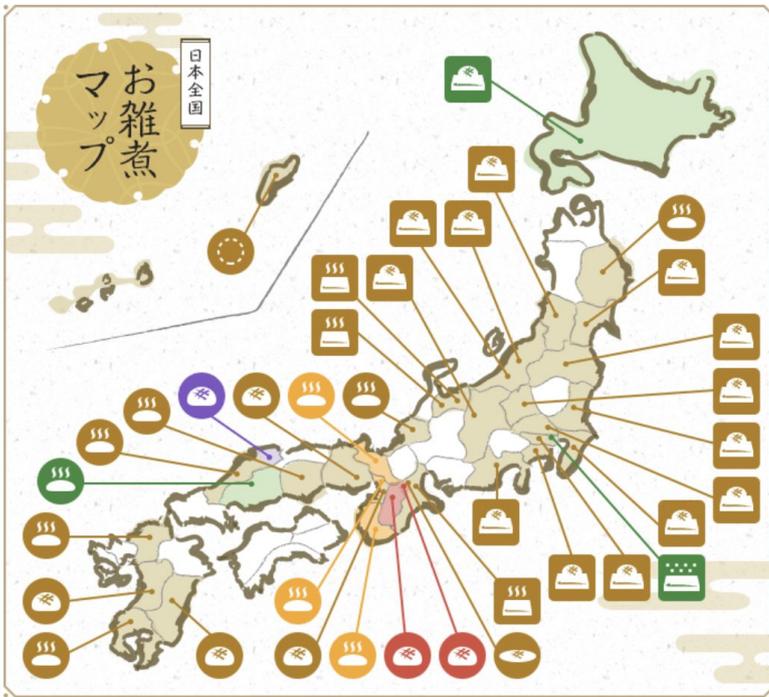
Another New Year's favorite — oshiruko, or mochi in red bean soup. This *is* sweet and so delicious  
<https://t.co/4FLCjQVb1o>



Here's a map of all the ozoni variations!

Being *not* from Tokyo in very Tokyo-centric Japan, I find regional variations in food, language, customs etc so fascinating — tho prob not of any interest to anyone who hasn't lived in Japan ■

<https://t.co/HJf3ZkZaKm> <https://t.co/tjHTc8Z7nM>



A running joke between my husband (who is from the Tokyo area) and me is, my hubby scoffs at everything not Tokyo — and I tell him off for being so elitist and blind and missing out

Yes! In fact as a cub reporter in Tokyo, a New Year's staple (of a much grimmer kind) was writing news briefs about older people choking on their mochi — it can be fatal ■ <https://t.co/oAigqJDBWL>

In Itami Juzo's gastronomical masterpiece Tampopo, there's a dramatic scene in which an older gentleman chokes on the mochi in his oshiruko — and is rather hilariously saved by the deft use of a vacuum cleaner. (I wouldn't try this at home tho.) <https://t.co/ijyVNC318r>

In this vein — mochi being introduced to America as ice cream dessert — tofu as a health food/protein alternative is an even bigger tragedy. Tofu is a delicacy of its own!

Tofu restaurants are among my favorite in Japan. Course after course of tofu cuisine..

Pics: Tofuya Ukai <https://t.co/pVHa0cgdRa>





Thanks for telling me about Ota Tofu, [@james\\_roe](#)! Looks amazing. <https://t.co/JOSzlr47wa>

I've tried making tofu at home here, and I found it pretty tricky. Far more so than say, natto. But freshly-made tofu is out of this world, definitely worth the effort.

And of course, tho I've focused on Japanese mochi and tofu, both are originally from the Asian mainland.

Soondubu Jjigae with soft silken tofu is a favorite Korean dish of ours <https://t.co/zzSSC50g3a>  
<https://t.co/PYIZ6ehwhR>



Back to mochi — everywhere in Japan around New Year's, you'll find Kagami-mochi, a decorative mochi that's supposed to bring good luck. More on that here <https://t.co/upKp7wDtgu> <https://t.co/wMPgFzysyb>



And all around Japan, you'll see New Year's mochitsuki taikai, where the neighborhood gets together to pound mochi from steamed rice. Fond memories! <https://t.co/pEusqVyfl2>

Haha yes! According to Japanese folklore, there is a rabbit on the moon pounding mochi! The moon's shadows looked like that to our ancestors, I guess. <https://t.co/HslmSwfOaH> <https://t.co/E454f93qCK>



Anyway, tho I tease my husband for his Tokyo centricness, it's in jest and he's actually a sweetheart — he learned to make amazing Kansai-style okonomiyaki, for example. In fact, it's what we're having tonight. Itadakimasu ■ <https://t.co/0rAJHrF1zl>



What? ■ <https://t.co/x6fUYRtEGS>

Interesting! ■ <https://t.co/oGBxZulPhz>

Mochi maker, wow — <https://t.co/mXbcJaWeb3>

How to help someone choking on mochi, courtesy of NHK. Slaps on the back/Heimlich maneuver = good, trying to dislodge the mochi with your fingers (or using a vacuum cleaner Tampopo style, presumably) = bad. Call an ambulance if all fails. <https://t.co/412Cf3hdMd>

This doctor actually says vacuum cleaners can be used to dislodge mochi as a last resort! But beware of causing further injury.. <https://t.co/1lI5H8GZ3Q>

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And now, our ozoni — so simple and good. <https://t.co/5qDnXcJeot>



Midnight oshiruko ■ <https://t.co/IFTrvhYrG4>

