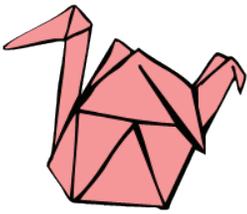


Origami

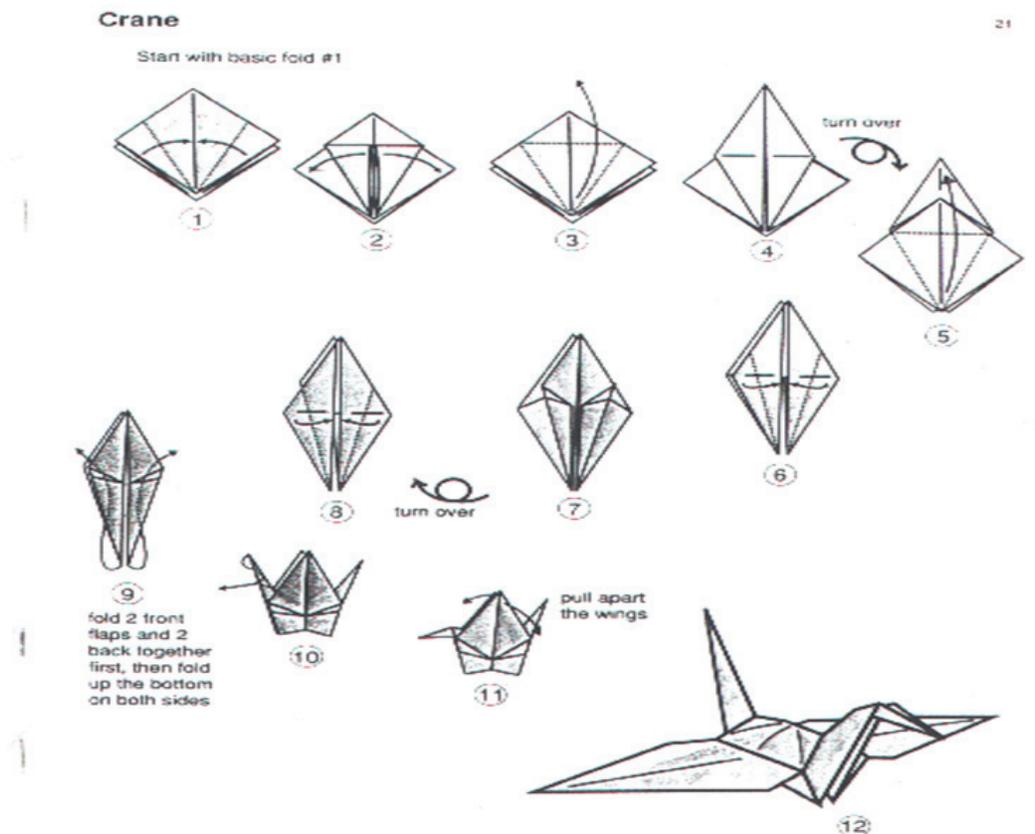
Activity 4 - Folding a Paper Crane

Origami is an ancient Japanese art of folding paper. The word origami comes from two Japanese words: “ori”, which means to fold, and “kami”, which means paper. Origami has become increasingly popular over the past few decades and has spread to North America, Europe and other places around the world.



Folding the paper crane can be a little tricky; although if you have some patience, you will surely be able to figure it out. Don't worry if it takes you a few tries to get it right. Practice makes perfect! Remember that it is very important to take your time with each folding step and make accurate and sharp creases.

Instructions:



Can you believe THIS is math?

Origami

Activity 4 - Folding a Paper Crane - *continued*

The Courageous Story of Sadako and the 1,000 Paper Cranes

“Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes” is a wonderful and very important book, written by Eleanor Coerr. This book is based on a true story about a little Japanese girl named Sadako Sasaki, who lived from 1943 to 1955, and became a victim of the atom bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima. Sadako’s story and her courage are world famous and represent a symbol of world peace.

Sadako and her family lived in Hiroshima, Japan, when in the year 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the city during World War II. Sadako was only 2 years old. For 10 years she lived a very happy and healthy life. In fact, she was a great athlete and wanted to become a runner on her school team. Her dream was “to run like the wind.”

But one day, suddenly, Sadako became very ill. When she was brought to the hospital she was diagnosed with leukemia. Sadako was devastated because it meant that she had to stop running and wouldn’t be able to be on the school team. Even though Sadako knew how serious the illness was, she was really hoping to get better soon.

Chizuko, who was Sadako’s best friend, came to visit her one day at the hospital. Chizuko had made a golden paper crane and brought it for Sadako. According to an old Japanese story, if a sick person can fold 1,000 paper cranes, it is supposed to make that person healthy again. And so Sadako, full of hope, began folding the paper cranes right away. By the end of that day Sadako had folded her first 12 cranes.

Every day Sadako worked hard to keep folding as many paper cranes as she could. Even on the days when she was feeling tired and dizzy she kept optimistic and continued folding the cranes. Three weeks after Chizuko brought the golden crane to the hospital, Sadako had 398 cranes folded. Her hospital room was covered in paper cranes. A week later, Sadako had 463 paper cranes. And then another week had passed and Sadako had 541 paper cranes folded.

But Sadako was beginning to lose her strength and felt much weaker. On some days she couldn’t fold any cranes at all. Still, she never gave up hope, and as soon as she would feel better she would start folding again. The last paper crane which Sadako folded was number 644. On October 25, 1955 Sadako Sasaki died.

After Sadako’s death, her classmates folded the rest of the paper cranes to make up 1,000 and help fulfill Sadako’s wish. Sadako’s brave spirit keeps living in the hearts of many people and inspiring hope all over the world. In 1958 a statue of Sadako holding a golden crane was created in Hiroshima. The inscription on the statue states: “This is our cry, this is our prayer; peace in the world.”

Every year on August 6 – Peace Day – people from different parts of the world place paper cranes at the statue in memory of Sadako.

Can you believe THIS is math?