



How to...



WOW!
The world record for folding 100 origami cranes the fastest is 40 minutes and 35 seconds. That means each crane was created in about 24 seconds.

Learn about origami

The ancient Japanese art of folding paper is a fun way to make animals and more.

You may have thrown a paper airplane, played with a paper fortune teller, or seen someone make a crane from paper. What you may not know is that all of those are examples of origami. Origami is the ancient Japanese art of folding a paper square into a two- or three-dimensional object. While they can look detailed, many aren't difficult to make. Here's how to get started.

Learn the history

The word origami comes from the Japanese words "ori," which means folding, and "kami," which means paper. Its origins are not fully known, but it's believed to have gotten its start when paper was brought to Japan from China in the year 610. In Japan, the quality of the paper was improved enough so it could be folded. At first, origami was mostly used in religious ceremonies. By the 1600s, paper was more widely available and origami became a popular art form.

Gather supplies

Unlike many other crafts, origami doesn't require scissors, glue, or tape. It's made with only paper, and the folds hold the shape together. Ask an adult if you can buy a package of origami paper (sold at craft stores or online), which comes in many colors. This special paper is thin, which makes it easier to fold, and the pieces are square. The standard size is 3 inches by 3 inches. You

can also use a ruler and scissors to make squares of paper from regular printer paper.

Find a guide

There are many websites and video channels that have free tutorials with step-by-step folding instructions. (See our list of resources in the box at right.) Your local library may also have books with origami projects. The crane is the most well-known origami creation to make. Dogs, boats, and swans are also common. Designs that move, like the frog, are called action origami and are more complex to create.

Start folding

Bring your paper to a clean table or countertop. Follow the directions closely. You may need to fold then unfold to make a crease, or you may need to flip the paper over for a step. It's important to make sharp creases because the creases hold the design. As you proceed, run over the edges with your fingernail. Don't worry if you make a mistake. You can unfold the paper and start again.

Display your work

Origami pieces make great gifts. You can give them away on their own or glue small creations onto cards or on top of gifts. In Japan, people often make a long string of origami creations and use them as decorations at celebrations.



Making sharp creases helps origami stay in place.

4 resources for making origami

Many artists who create origami share their methods on websites, in books, and more. Check these out.

WEBSITE:
origamiway.com

This website's step-by-step instructions will help you turn paper into fish, butterflies, and popular characters.

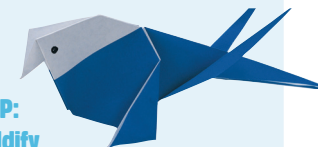


BOOK: *Origami: Inspired by Japanese Prints from The Metropolitan Museum of Art*

This colorful guidebook of the art form's history comes with 48 sheets of paper and instructions for creating different objects.

APP:
Foldify

This app isn't about origami, but it does help you create 3D folded paper art. Choose an image, color it, then print it out. The paper will have lines to show you where to fold to finish it.



VIDEO CHANNEL:
Gary Easy Origami

On this YouTube channel, the host teaches viewers how to make a variety of origami creations, such as a jumping frog.



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