

LEARNING RESOURCE



Folding an Origami Swan

The word Origami is derived from two Japanese words: “Ori” which means “folding”, and “Kami” which means “paper”. It is an ancient art form believed to be nearly 2000 years old, since paper was created sometime around 100AD. Paper originally was a very rare and expensive material, so this type of paper folding was an activity of the elite in society, and used for religious or ceremonial occasions.

Now it is a great way to learn about geometry, develop psychomotor skills, and support the development of hand-eye coordination. It’s often used as a way to practice mindfulness, where it can become a form of meditation.

Here are some instructions to fold your own Origami swan.

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What will I need for this project?

- A square piece of paper (preferably origami paper, as this is thinner and easier to make crisp folds)

(That's it! A joy of origami is that you can create intricate new forms purely from the paper and your hands, without needing any other tools to cut, stick, or mark it).

Step one:

Find a table or a flat surface to work on



Step two:

Fold your paper in half diagonally



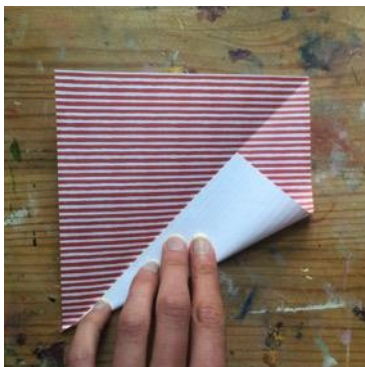
Step three:

Open out your fold



Step four:

Fold up the bottom edge into the centre fold



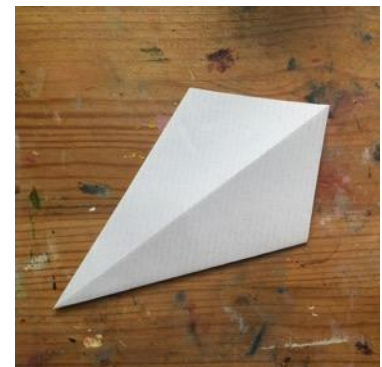
Step five:

Fold the other edge on the left to meet it in the centre



Step six:

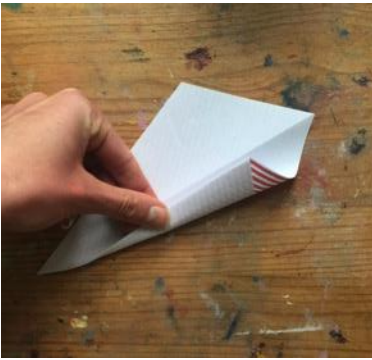
Turn your paper over



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Step seven:

Fold the outer edges into the centre again on this side



Step eight:

The edges should meet together along the centre fold



Step nine:

Bend the bottom point to meet the top



Step ten:

Turn your paper shape over



Step eleven:

Fold this in half down the centre



Step twelve:

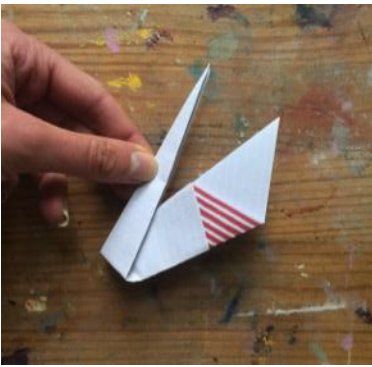
Your paper should look something like this...



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Step thirteen:

Pull up the top triangle shape



Step fourteen:

Press the fold at the bottom, so it's about a 45 degree angle



Step fifteen:

Turn down the top of this shape, as below



Step sixteen:

Open out the fold



Step seventeen:

Bend the fold you just made forwards – along the lines as marked below



Step eighteen:

Make another fold down for the head just above the neck folds you just made



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Step nineteen:

Push the triangular tip up again, like a concertina back on the last fold you made



Step twenty:

Press the sides back together again, as your paper looked like in step 16. The head should now fold into place



Finally, admire your swan!

Talking Points

Does your swan look the same on both sides?

Can it stand up?

What else do you think