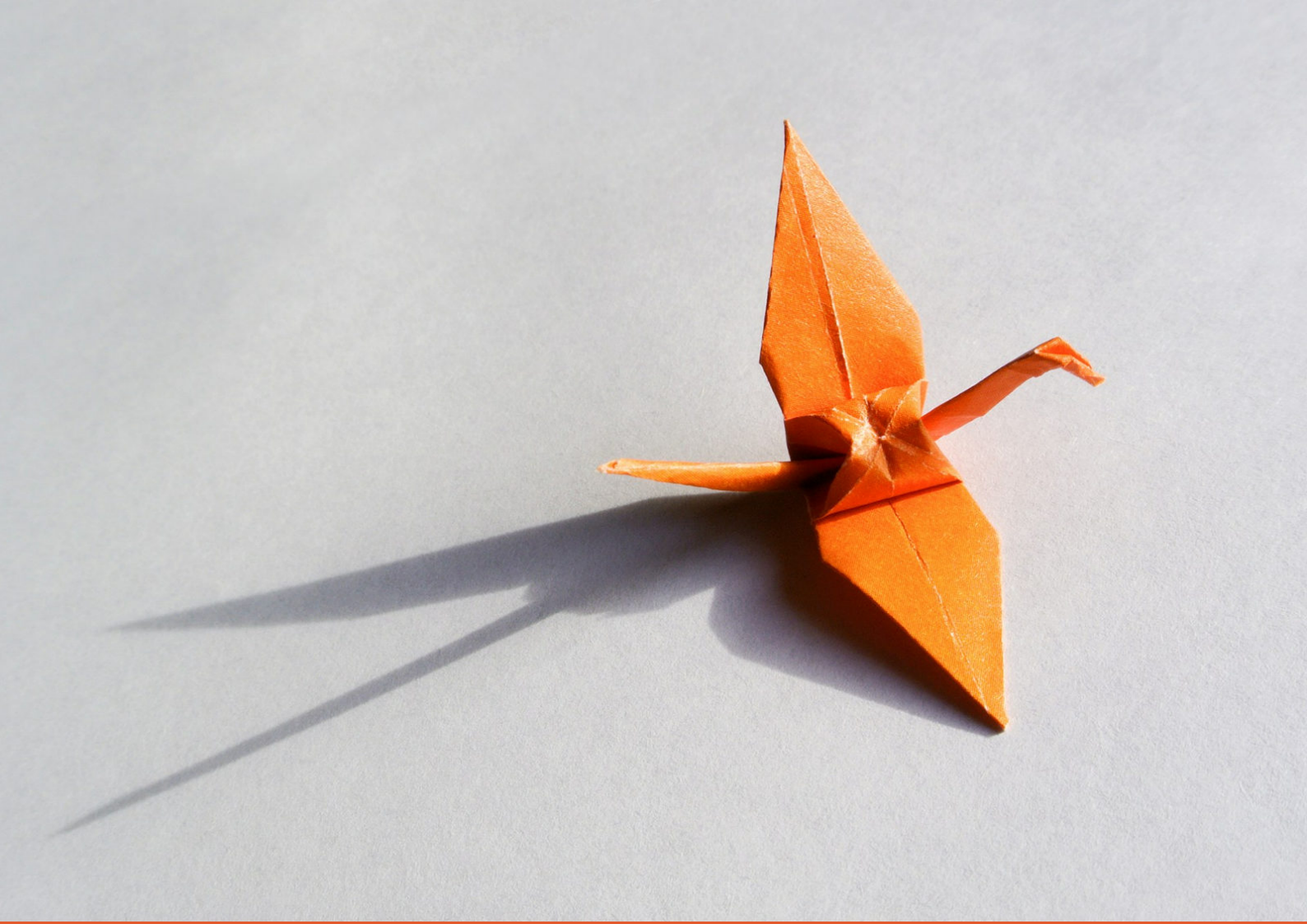




EduTrend Contents

W4C · CRAFTS AND HANDMADE ARTS · PRIMARY

Origami Animals

Fold a square of paper into an animal

Ages 7–10

Level: Foundation

60 minutes

Pairs · up to 30

Activity 01

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 pupil worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 01 · AT A GLANCE

Origami Animals

Pupils learn the basic folds of origami, the Japanese art of paper folding, and practise reading folding diagrams. They fold a simple animal, then a harder one, and finish by changing a model to invent a new creature of their own.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- make valley and mountain folds accurately;
- follow a folding diagram step by step;
- fold at least two origami models;
- adapt a model to create a new design.

KEY WORDS

origami · valley fold · mountain fold
· crease · diagram · square · symmetry

CURRICULUM LINKS

Art and design: 3D form and making. Maths: shape, symmetry and following sequences.

Geography and history: Japanese culture.

1**EXPLORE**

Look and handle

2**IMAGINE**

Generate ideas

3**PLAN**

Sketch and measure

4**MAKE**

Practise the technique

5**REFLECT**

Check and critique

6**REFINE**

Finish and share

Materials (per pair)

- Square paper, 15 cm, in several colours (or cut from A4)
- Printed folding diagrams for two animals
- Pens for adding eyes and details
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Practise both models yourself.
- Cut square paper if needed.
- Print diagrams large enough to read.
- Prepare a finished example of each model.

SAFETY

Take care with paper edges. Use scissors only if cutting squares, and cut away from the body.

ACTIVITY 01 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Sharp creases make everything easier: show pupils how to run a fingernail along each fold.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–10 min Hook	Unfold a finished origami model to show the crease pattern.	<i>"How did one square become an animal?"</i>
10–20 min Folds	Practise valley and mountain folds and read diagram symbols.	<i>"Which way does a valley fold go?"</i>
20–35 min Model 1	Pairs fold a simple animal, helping each other with each step.	<i>"Which step was hardest?"</i>
35–50 min Model 2	Pairs try a harder model, or change the first to invent a creature.	<i>"What happens if you fold this corner differently?"</i>
50–60 min Zoo	Display all animals in an origami zoo.	<i>"Which fold gave your animal its shape?"</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Fold two origami animals from diagrams, then change one model to invent a new creature and draw the diagram step you changed.

ACTIVITY 01 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The craft in brief

Origami is the art of folding paper into shapes, with a long tradition in Japan. A valley fold makes a crease that sinks like a valley; a mountain fold makes a crease that rises like a peak. Folding diagrams use arrows and dashed lines to show each fold.

When you unfold an origami model, the lines left behind form a crease pattern. Mathematicians and engineers study these patterns: a fold called the Miura fold was designed by the Japanese astrophysicist Koryo Miura so that large sheets, such as solar panels for space, can open and close in one movement.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Origami always needs glue or scissors.” Traditional models use folding only.
- “Soft folds are fine.” Sharp creases make models accurate.
- “There is only one way to fold an animal.” Folders invent new models all the time.

Adapting the activity

Support

Use larger paper and fold alongside an adult one step at a time.

Stretch

Fold a model from a diagram without any help and teach it to another pair.

WORKSHEET 1

Fold symbols

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Draw and label the symbols.

Symbols

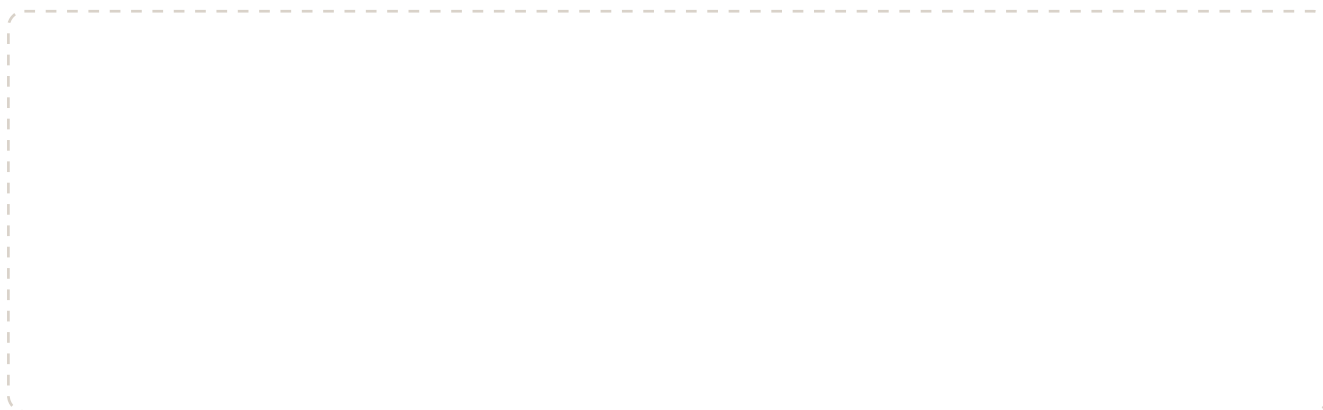
Symbol	What it means	I can do it (tick)
Valley fold		
Mountain fold		
Turn over		
Fold and unfold		

WORKSHEET 2

My new creature

Design a variation.

Sketch



Draw your new creature and the fold you changed.

WORKSHEET 3

Reflection

Think about your folding.

The hardest step was...

How I solved it

Next I want to fold...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight pupils; copy as needed.

Pupil	Folds accurately	Follows diagrams	Adapts a design

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Origami Animals is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents W4C Crafts and Handmade Arts programme (primary, level: foundation). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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