

# Legend of 1,000 cranes



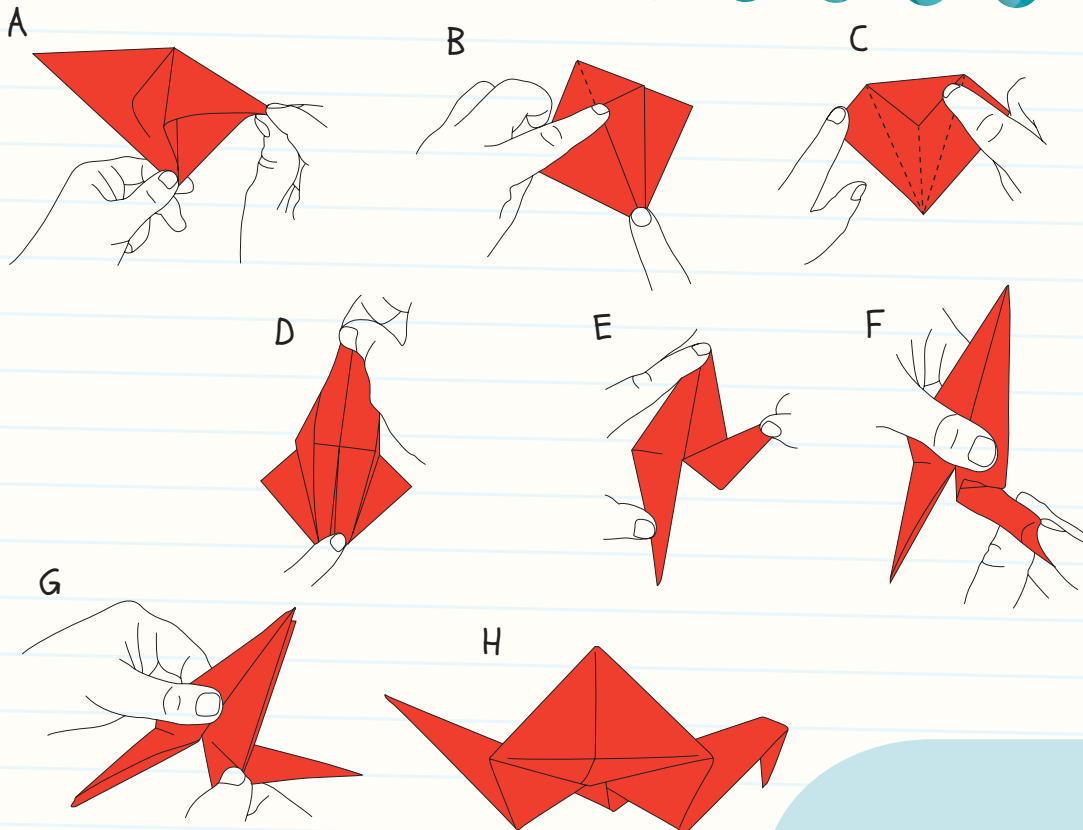
3D craft  
and design



30 mins



Challenge  
yourself



## Aim of activity

Discover a Japanese tradition by folding origami cranes. They're not just for decoration; they've helped to inspire people all over the world.

## What you'll get out of it

- Understand the importance of craft in culture.
- Discover the ancient art of origami.
- Explore how craft can help bring people together.
- Develop paper crafting skills.

## What you'll need

- A selection of brightly coloured paper squares, measuring at least 7.5cm x 7.5cm, 1 per girl

## Note to leader

This activity works best if you try folding a crane before starting to show it as an example.



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding



Origami has been part of Japanese culture for centuries. It's said that anyone with enough patience to fold 1,000 cranes will be rewarded with their most desired wish.

## What to do

**1** Form a circle. Turn to the person next to you and talk about what you would wish for. Share a few as a unit.

**2** Your leader will read you a story of one girl's wish and how it has become an international story.

### Sadako's story

At the end of World War II, an atomic bomb was dropped near Sadako's home in Japan. Because of this, she became sick. Sadako knew about the crane legend and started folding. She wished to get well and for peace for people who were suffering. She sadly died before she could finish her cranes, but her classmates finished the 1,000 cranes in her honour. As Sadako's story spread, the origami crane has become a symbol of peace and hope. A statue of Sadako stands in Japan surrounded by cranes sent by children from all over the world.

**3** Each take a square piece of paper. Fold it in half, checking that the two sides line up. Open your paper and repeat the other way to make a cross on your paper.

### Top tip

It's important to make all your folds firm by pressing down.

**4** Turn your paper over and fold it in half, corner to corner, then open it up. Repeat with the other side to create a second cross, but keep the paper folded.

**5** Hold your paper with the middle point facing down. Take the right corner and push it to meet the bottom corner, as in picture A. Turnover and repeat.

**6** On the top layer only, fold each side corner into the centre, as in picture B. Do this on both sides and unfold.

**7** Fold the top corner down, as in picture C, and unfold.

**8** Take the bottom corner and lift it, pushing the sides in, as in picture D. Repeat on the other side, so that you have a diamond shape.

**9** Take one of the bottom points and fold it up to create a fold. Do the same with the other bottom point and repeat on the other side, as in picture E.

**10** Take one of the bottom corners and fold it up. Turn the fold inside out by pushing the centre upwards, as in pictures F and G. Do the same with the other bottom point.

**11** Choose one of the newly folded points and make a head by folding a little bit of the paper downwards. Fold down the wings to complete your crane, as in picture H.

**12** Decide on a way to display your cranes. In Japan, they often hang lots of them together on ribbons.