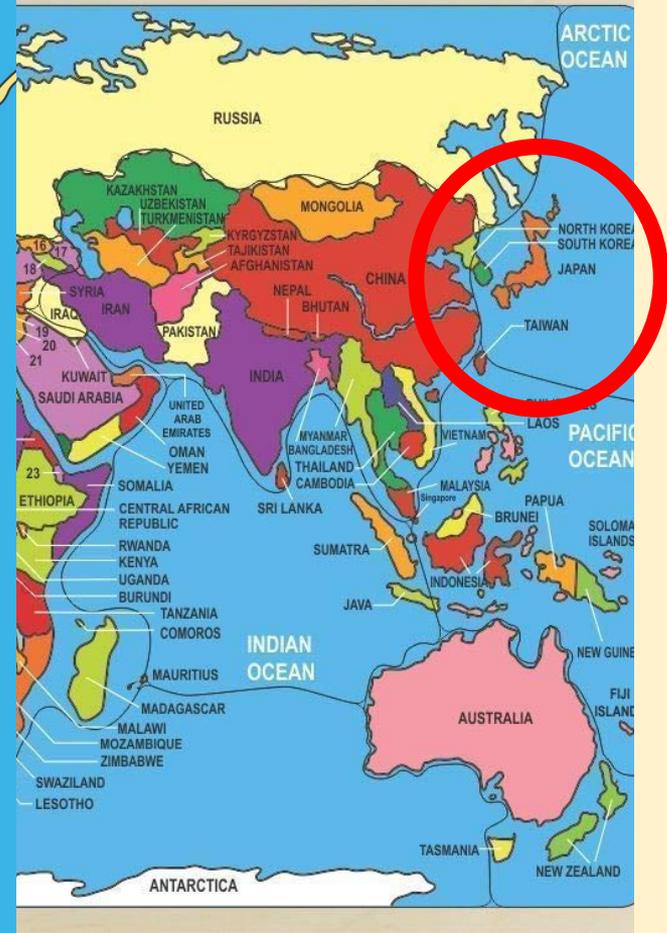


Origami





This lesson focuses on Japan!

Do you know what origami means? Do you have an idea what kind of craft it refers to?

Origami

Origami is a Japanese word. It comes from:

- **ori** = folding
- **Kami** = paper

Origami is the **art** of **paper folding**.



Origami is an art that originates back thousands of years, and has modern forms today!

Origami also has meaning, which we call symbolism.

What is Symbolism?

A symbol is a sign, shape, object, etc. that represents an idea or a specific meaning.

Example: hearts are a symbol of love

Can you think of another example for a symbol?

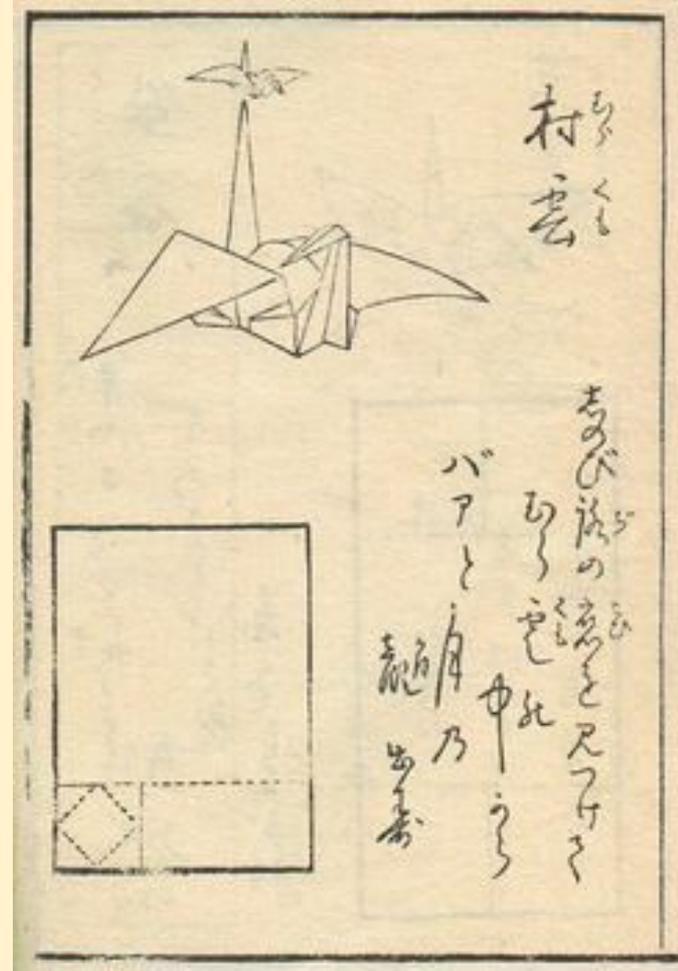




Click the image to play the video!

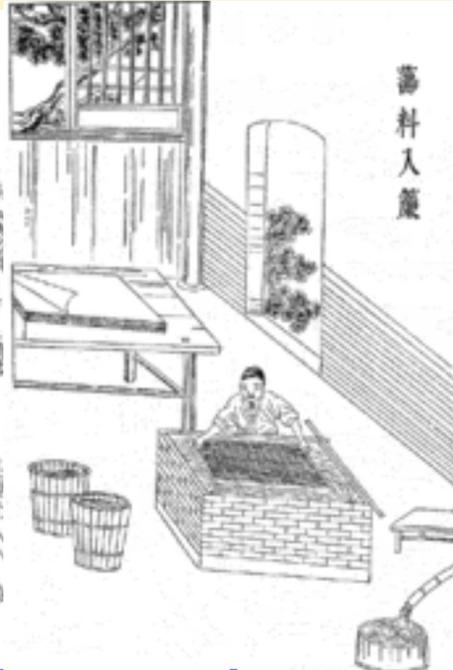
The origins of origami in Japan

- ★ Origami began in the 6th century CE
- ★ Most origami instructions were passed down by oral tradition
- ★ The practice of paper folding became part of a Shinto religious ritual
- ★ The most popular forms were flowers, birds, and other nature-based creations



Hiden senbazuru orikata, Akisato Rito, Japan, 1798.

What is the most important material needed for origami?

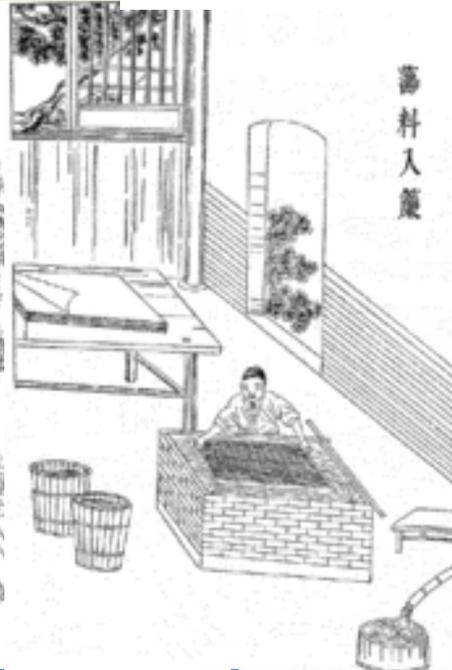


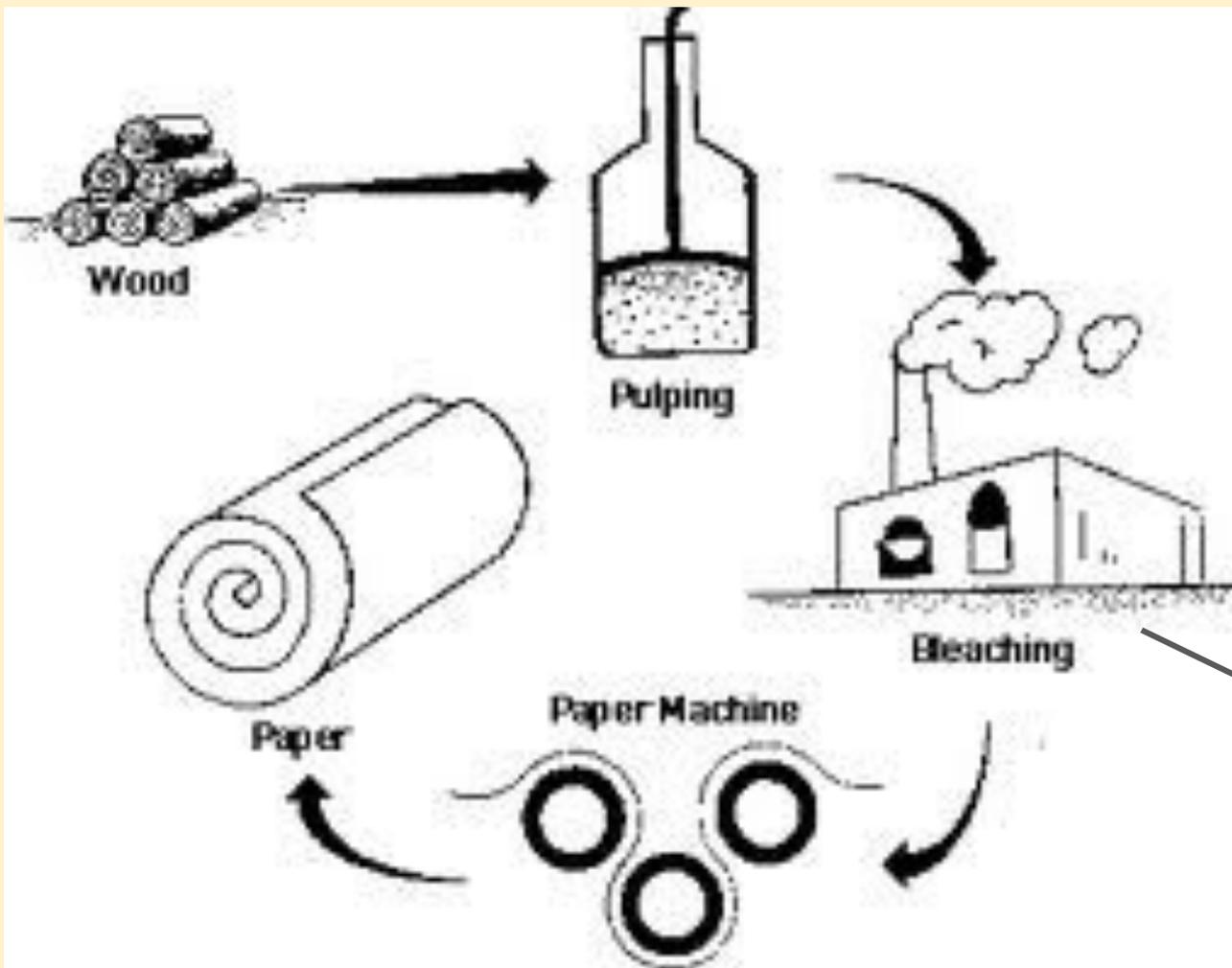
Paper!

Origins of paper in China 105 CE:

Process: gather mulberry bark; cut into small pieces, and break down with hemp, rags with water; mashed the mixture into pulp; press out the liquid; and hung the sheet to dry in the sun!

It's a long and expensive process to make paper!





Paper process in Ancient China: gather wood, or mixed mulberry bark, hemp and rags; mix it with water; mash it into pulp; press out the liquid; hang the thin mat to dry in the sun.

Today it is much easier and faster process to make paper!

What do you see here?

What are the girls doing?



Here, the girls are practicing paper crane origami!



Terazaki, *Young Girls Making Paper Cranes*, 1906, Japan

Paper and origami were important in China too!

The Warrior's Way
Ca. 18th century
painting on paper
mounted on scroll
paper

In Chinese society, warriors were well respected, and had special treatment in society, famous in part for their military organization and skills.



Origami was involved in Chinese rituals for warriors.

Since warriors were well respected, they received many pieces of gold marking their elite status.

Pieces of paper are folded to look like gold nuggets. These folded papers are often burned during funerals, as they are believed to have served as currency for the deceased during their journey to the Underworld. It is a tradition that is still practiced to this day!



How do you make origami?

The traditional origami process in Japan tends to feature animals and plants, such as butterflies, flowers and cranes, whereas Chinese origami has a tendency towards objects, such as boats, boxes and dishes.

Traditional paper folding does not use scissors or glue!



What is this origami shape? And what do you think it means?



Sakana

fish(in japanese)

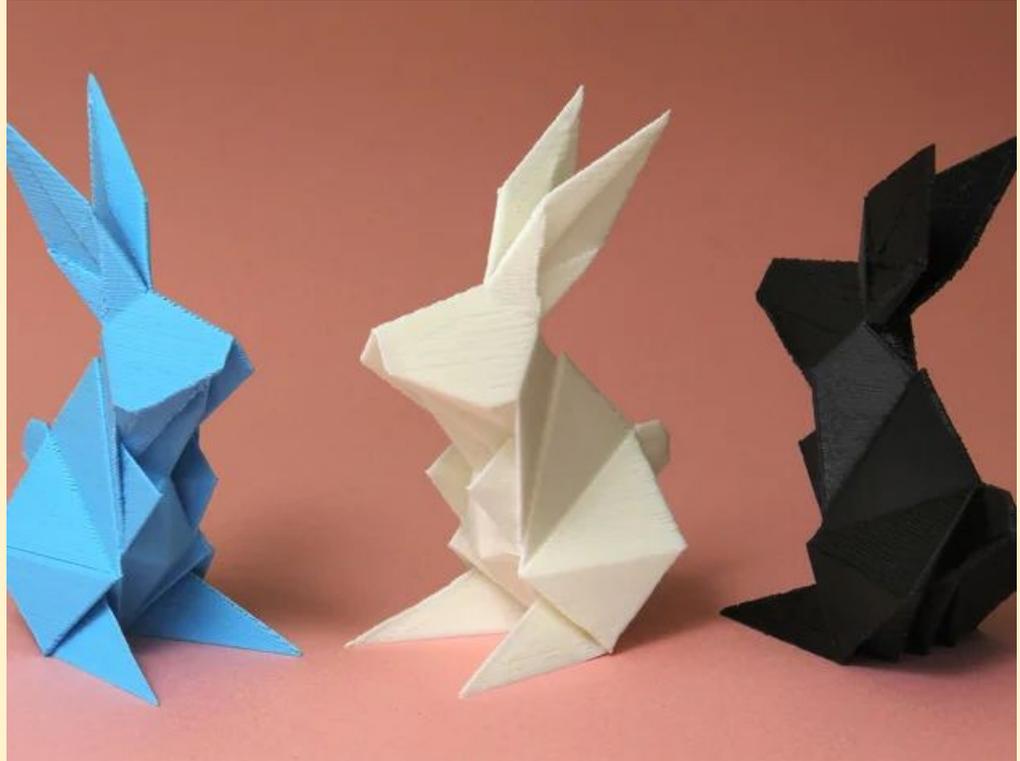
A fish is a symbol of happiness, freedom and well being.



Because fish need a lot of strength to swim upstream, fish are also a symbol of strength and courage.



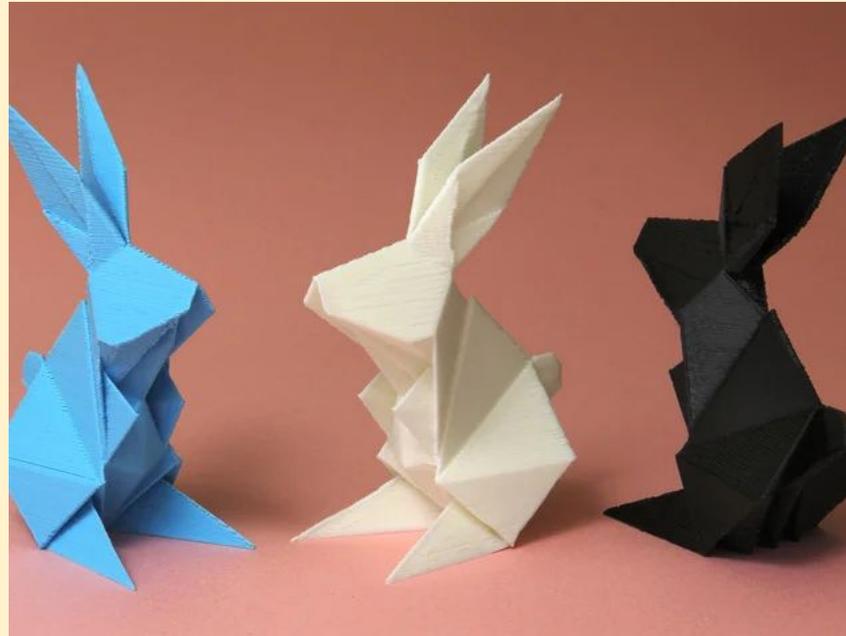
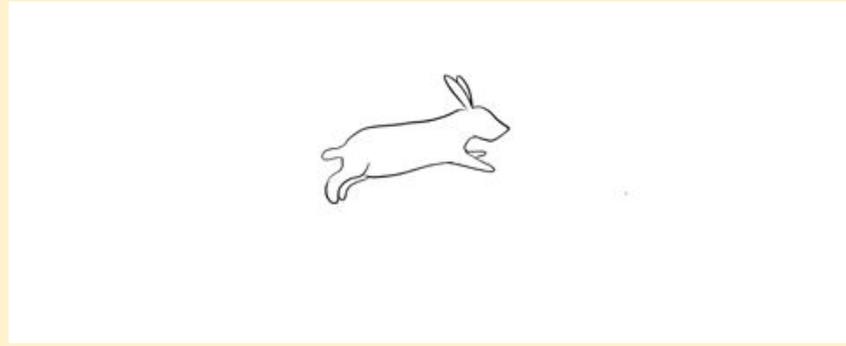
What is this origami shape? And what do you think it means?



Usagi

rabbit (in japanese)

A rabbit is a symbol of mischief, but it can also represent spring time.

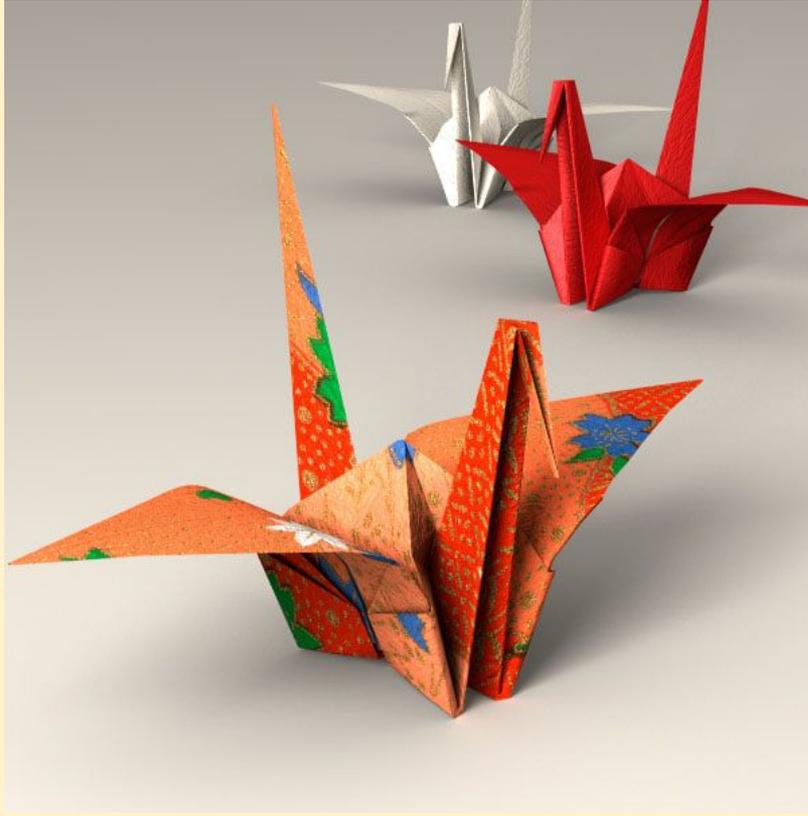


What is this origami shape? And what do you think it means?



Tsuru

Crane (in japanese)



In Japanese folklore, cranes are believed to live for a 1,000 years!

Therefore, cranes symbolize a long life.

Cranes also represent happiness, good luck and peace.

People still make origami today!

The modern origami process can use a wet-fold technique, a now popular method where paper is slightly dampened. The result is origami that retains a more sculptural appearance. Sometimes, this process uses scissors or glue.

What animal do you think this is?



Hoàng Tiến Quyết 2010

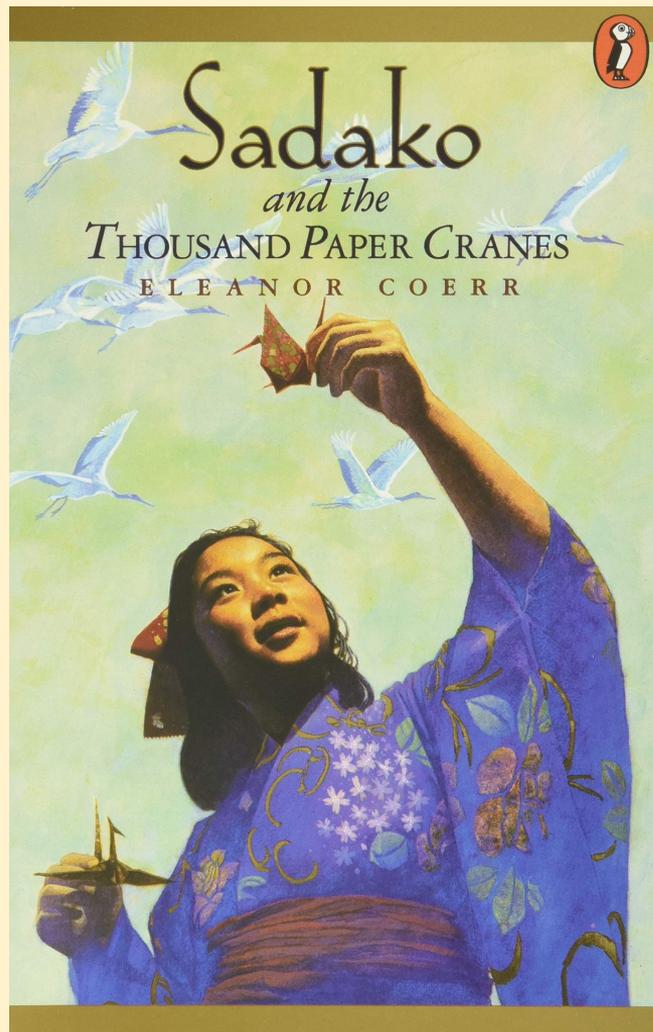


Here are more modern origami creations!



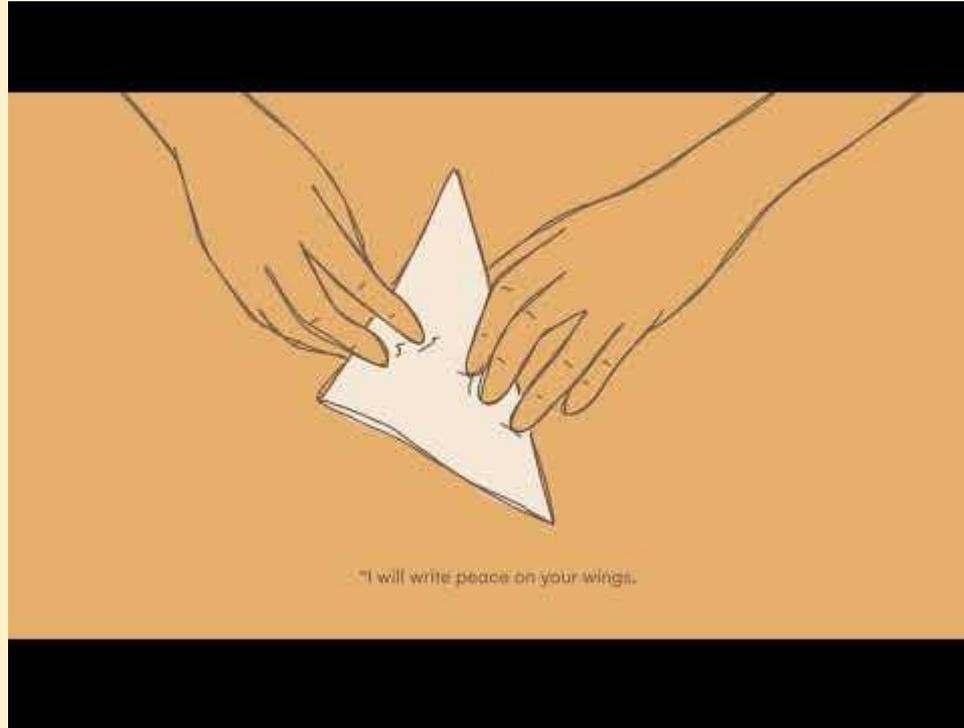
See how one person makes
origami today!

Click the image to
play the video!



The modern story of Sadako also focuses on origami.

This video tells the story
of Sakado!



Click the image to
play the video!

Here are some ideas for origami crafts you can do at home with any paper you have around you!

The paper can be white or colored. Try not to use any glue or scissors.

A cat!



Click the image to
play the video!

A paper crane!



Click the image to
play the video!

A butterfly!



Click the image to
play the video!

A dino!



Click the image to
play the video!