

ORIGAMI PATCH



Follow each step to discover origami and its origins, connect with, and become a part of history.

DISCOVER

- Origami** – What is Origami? Where does it come from? Find out what origami is, where it comes from, and look up photographs of many different kinds of origami.
- Japan**– Find out more about the country where origami originated. Where is it located? What languages are spoken there? What food do they eat?
- Create**– What can you create with paper? Without any specific instructions, try folding paper different ways to see what creations you can come up with. Make sure to reflect upon your art. Was it easy or difficult for you? What did you make? Did it turn out how you imagined?

CONNECT

- Origami Crane**– Read about the meaning and origin of the origami crane and the story of Sadako. Discuss what life might have been like for Sadako.
- Peace Park**– Explore the Hiroshima Peace Park through pictures, online, or in person. When and why was the Peace Park built? What does it stand for? Talk about the Sadako statue and display of cranes at the park. What do they mean?
- Make a Crane**– Make origami cranes just like Sadako! Use instructions and tutorials online to help you through the steps. <http://www.origami-fun.com/origami-crane.html>

TAKE ACTION

- Share**– Send your cranes to the Hiroshima Peace Park so they can be displayed by the statue of Sadako. Follow the link below for information on how to mail the cranes to Hiroshima City. Or display your cranes and the story of Sadako in a public space, such as a school or community center, so others can learn about her story.

<http://www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/shimin/heiwa/crane.html>

MEANING OF THE ORIGAMI CRANE

The Japanese word, “origami” is a combination of two words in Japanese: “ori” which means “to fold” and “kami” which means “paper”. It is believed that Japanese origami began in the 6th century and because of the high costs of paper, origami was only used for religious ceremonial purposes.



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In Japan, the crane is a mystical creature and is believed to live for a thousand years. As a result, in the Japanese, Chinese and Korean culture, the crane represents good fortune and longevity. The Japanese refer to the crane as the “bird of happiness”. The wings of the crane were believed to carry souls up to paradise. Mothers who pray for the protection of the crane’s wings for their children will recite the prayer:

*“O flock of heavenly cranes
cover my child with your wings.”*

Traditionally, it was believed that if one folded 1000 origami cranes, one’s wish would come true. It has also become a symbol of hope and healing during challenging times. As a result, it has become popular to fold 1000 cranes (in Japanese, called “senbazuru”). The cranes are strung together on strings – usually 25 strings of 40 cranes each – and given as gifts.

A famous story about senbazuru is that of Sadako Sasaki (see “*Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*” by Eleanor Coerr [1977]). Sadako was a little girl who was exposed to radiation as an infant when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Although she survived the bomb, she was diagnosed with leukemia by the age of 12. She decided to fold 1000 cranes, hoping that her wish to live would come true. Unfortunately, she only was able to fold 644 cranes before she passed away. Her classmates then continued to fold cranes in her honour and she was buried with a wreath of 1000 cranes to honour her dream. There is now a statue of Sadako in Hiroshima Peace Park – a little girl standing with her hand outstretched, holding a paper crane.