



# The Art of Origami

Did you know that with a single square piece of paper you can create a whole world of objects? Origami is the ancient art of folding paper to create beautiful, little objects. From jumping paper frogs, to complex flowers, the options are limitless. No scissors or glue required!

Origami originated in Japan around the 6th century when monks brought paper from China to the country. At first it was only for ceremonies, but eventually around the 1600s, it became a recreational activity and a form of art. It became a fun and common way to use any paper scrap for something special!

Since then, origami has evolved but still uses the same geometric principles. Artists have used these skills to create installations, while others focus on the math of the folds. Certain objects have even become international symbols!

How to earn the Origami patch the Girl Scout way:

## Steps:

1. **Discover**—What is origami?
2. **Connect**—Learn the story of the peace crane.
3. **Take Action**—Give an origami crane.

## Materials Needed:

In order to complete this patch, you'll need:

- resources (You can either go online with an adult, ask a professional, or visit your public library.)
- For steps 2 and 3: multiple square pieces of paper (This can be anything from printer paper to construction paper. The thinner the better.) Try wrapping paper for fun patterns!

## STEP

# 1

## What is origami?

Have you ever tried origami? Look up a couple origami items you want to create. Start easy and gradually try harder objects. You can either look at drawn directions or watch videos—whatever is easier for you!

Now imagine something you want to create (an animal, a flower, etc.) and try folding paper to create your item! How did it turn out?

Look up the specific directions for the origami object you had in mind. Follow the instructions to see how the specific folds transform your paper!

## STEP

# 2

## Learn the story of the peace crane.

Did you know that paper cranes are an international symbol of peace that originated in Japan? This culture has been folding paper cranes to show support to other cultures, as well as honor their own stories, for centuries. Paper cranes have been gifted to museums around the world including the 9/11 Memorial Museum and the USS Missouri Memorial in Pearl Harbor.

With the help of an adult, virtually explore the history and photos of the Children's Peace Monument in Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima. What part do the paper cranes play in this park? Learn about how paper cranes have become a symbol of hope and peace not just in this park, but around the world.

Make a paper crane of your own by finding a tutorial to guide you.

## STEP

# 3

## Give an origami crane.

Pick one of these three options:

1. As you may have learned in the previous step, the Peace Memorial Park accepts paper cranes from all over the world to be a part of their monument. With the help of an adult, mail a paper crane to the park to be a part of the installation art.
2. Learn about the Peace Crane Project! With the help of an adult, you can sign up to exchange peace cranes with others from around the world!
3. Make a paper crane (or any other object!) and surprise others with these delicate and beautiful pieces of origami.

### All done?

**CONGRATULATIONS!** You've completed all the necessary steps to earn the Origami patch.



After completing the activities from each step, visit or call a Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania retail shop at **800-248-3355** to purchase your patch.\* A patch may be worn on the back of a vest, sash or tunic.

*\*Patch shown may be substituted with similar patch, based on availability.*