

Art Project – Origami

For the remainder of the year, we will be focusing on the art of paper folding. This art grew up in Europe and in Asia, and has been in use for more than five hundred years. In Japan, the art became known as *origami* (etymology: *ori* meaning “folding” and *kami* meaning “paper”) and it is under this name that the artform has spread throughout the world.

In the Late Middle Ages and the Renaissance in Europe, as societies became wealthier, it was common for the nobility to hold banquets. Many guests were invited to these feasts, and it was considered very important to impress the attendees with the beauty and the bounty of your table. In the beginning of this era the plates used at the table were not especially impressive, so hosts began to fold the napkins into intricate and impressive shapes and place them on top of the dinner plate of each guest.

The particular fold of each napkin was meant to be symbolic of the person sitting there: women would have their napkin folded into a fan shape, men into the shapes of the various hats they wore for their office. Perhaps the most famous fold is known as the “Bishop’s Hat”, and looks remarkably like a mitre. Other shapes included the cardinal’s hat and various crowns for noble and royal visitors. Over time these styles became more and more extravagant, until some would have entire castles made of folded linen in the center of their dining tables for special occasions.

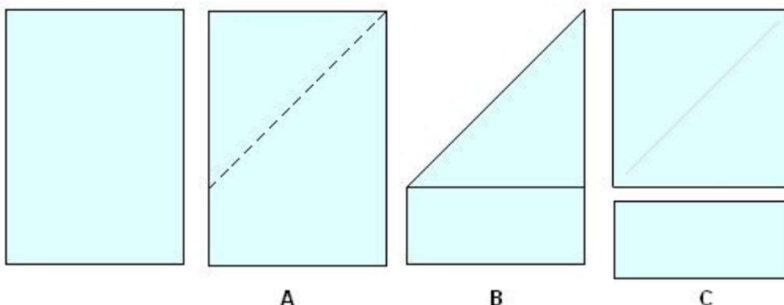
While this art was made with folded linen, the same styles and rules apply to the techniques necessary to create them as exist in the art of origami. Paper was first invented in China, and in the earliest days it was only used in important ceremonies. Origami butterflies were used as decorations in weddings, or special folds called *noshi* were used to adorn special ceremonial gifts from one samurai to another.

As time went on, in both Asian and European cultures, origami became a popular form of art and entertainment. Books that teach the folds and techniques have been sold around the world for almost 250 years. As we continue through our studies, we will fold several of the most famous folds from both Asia and Europe, moving from the simplest to more and more complex designs.

This week, we will begin by folding two very simple shapes, and one which will require a little more focus. These are the dog, the cat, and the pigeon. I will send home enough sheets with each of you to be able to do each exercise twice. This way, you may practice before you complete your final copy. **Please hand in your final version with your assignments next Monday, May 11.**

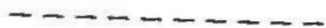
If you would like to practice more but do not have extra origami paper, you can fold any printer or lined paper into origami as well! Just make sure you use a square piece of paper. You can cut a rectangle into a square simply by following these instructions: (*P.S. – You can use the cut-off rectangle as a guide to make more squares without having to fold the paper.*)

- A. Take a sheet of rectangular paper and fold it as shown.
- B. Use the edge as a guide to cut off the lower rectangle.
- C. Unfold the triangle and you will get a square with a diagonal crease in it. You can save the excess paper for another project.



Symbols

Lines



Valley fold, fold in front.



Mountain fold, fold behind.



Crease line.



X-ray or guide line.

Arrows



Fold in this direction.



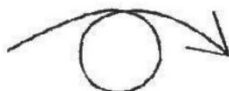
Fold behind.



Unfold.



Fold and unfold.



Turn over.

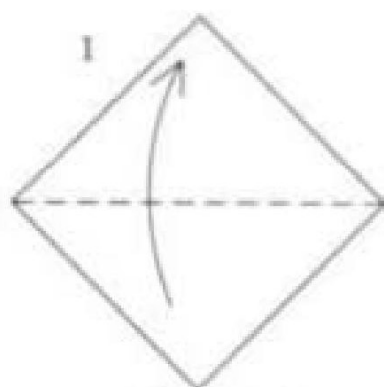


Push.

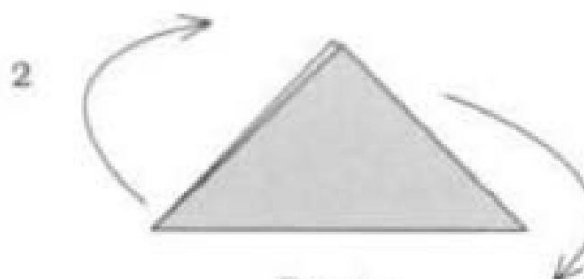


Place your finger between these layers.

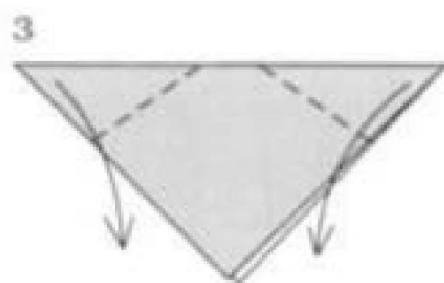
Dog



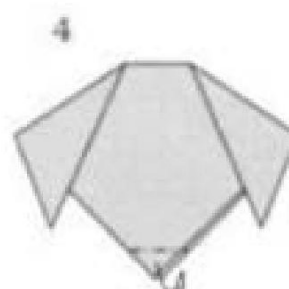
Fold in half.



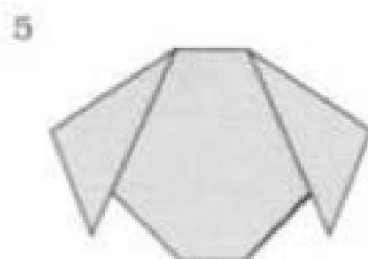
Rotate.



Fold the ears down.

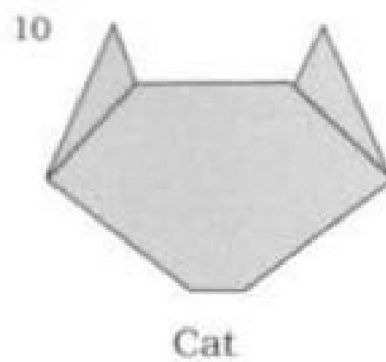
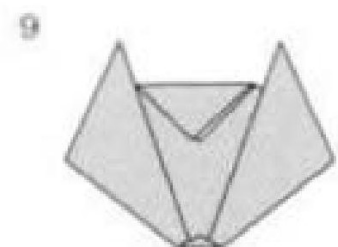
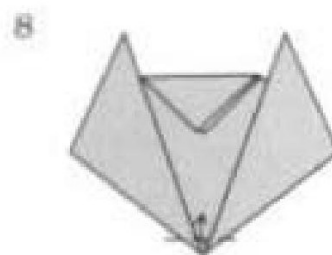
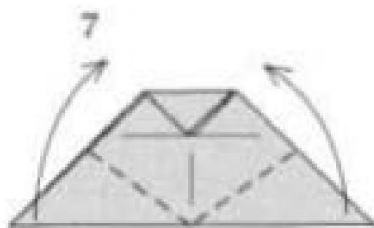
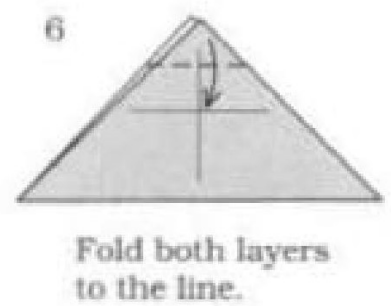
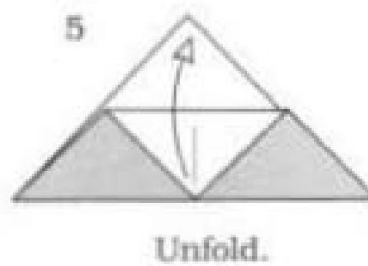
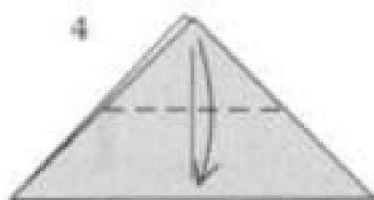
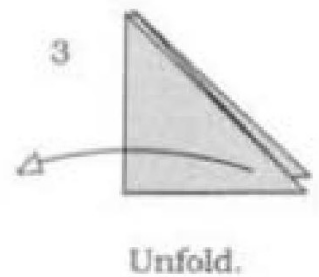
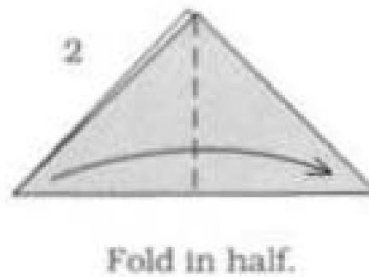
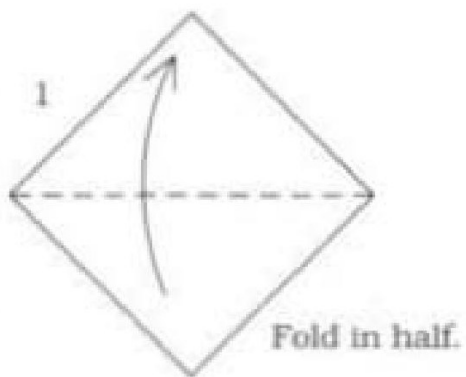


Fold behind.

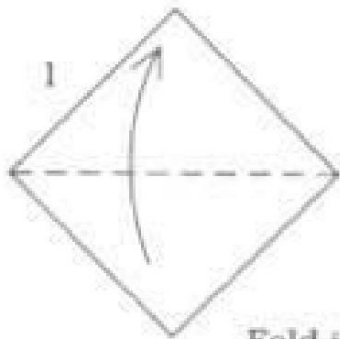


Dog

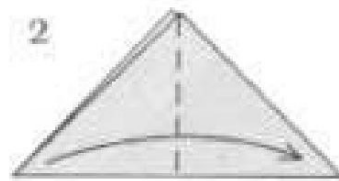
Cat



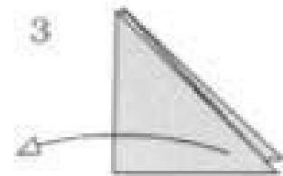
Pigeon



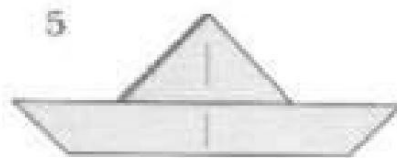
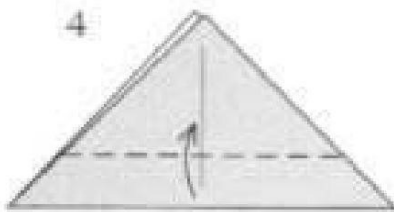
Fold in half.



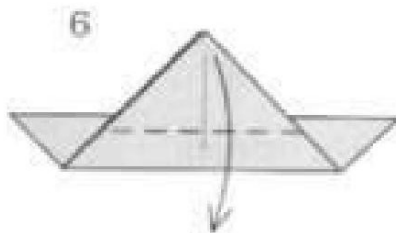
Fold in half.



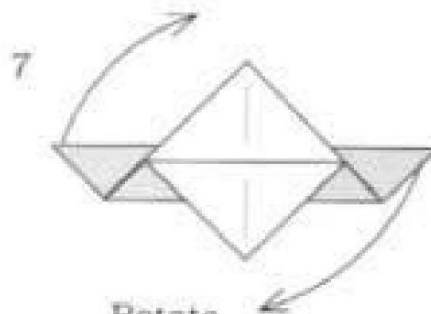
Unfold.



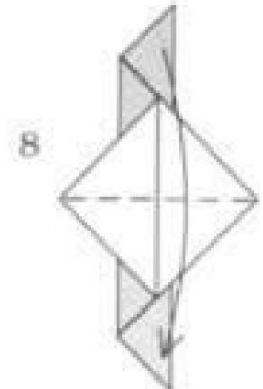
Turn over.



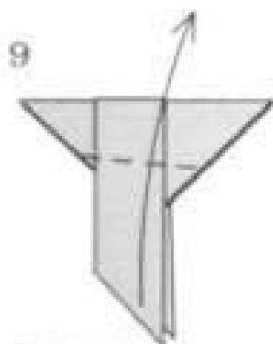
Fold one layer down.



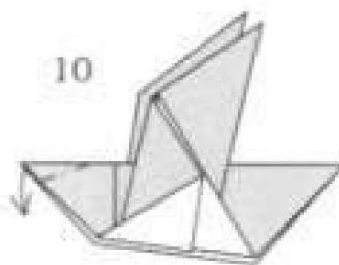
Rotate.



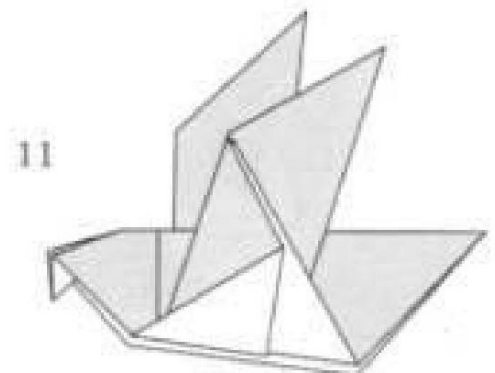
Fold in half.



Fold the wing up,
repeat behind.



Fold the beak.



Pigeon