

# Art Activity

## Create your own Round Folding Fan!

**Take & Make:** Folding Fan

**Ages:** 8+

**Collection:** East Asian art

**Culture/Region:** China

**Subject Area:** Fine Arts, Visual Arts

**Activity Type:** Hands-On Activity

### Create your own round folding fan inspired by Chinese traditions!

Throughout the world, people have been using handheld fans as cooling and ceremonial devices for thousands of years. Early fans were the fixed, or rigid type, not the folding fans you may think of today.

At the end of the Song Dynasty (960-1279) the folding fan was introduced to China and gained popularity. Folding fans are composed of panels and ribs designed to rotate around a central point. The panels of these folding fans were typically made from paper, silk, and other fabrics, and were often decorated with calligraphy and decorative painted scenes. The ribs of the fan would have been made from expensive and rare materials like elaborately carved sandalwood, tortoiseshell or ivory. In modern times, it is more common to use more affordable materials such as bamboo to create the fan's ribs. There are over 500 styles of fans today.

Follow the directions below to create your own round folding fan!

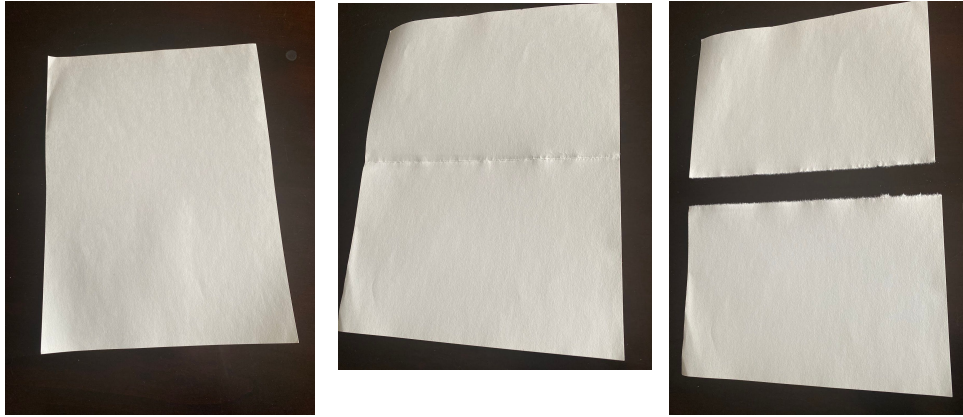
### Materials:

- 2 popsicle sticks
- 1-2 sheets of construction paper
- Glue stick
- Stapler/tape
- Crayons/markers
- **Optional:** decorative paper



## Creating your own Folding Fan

1. Fold a sheet of construction paper in half vertically; create a crease and tear to make two sheets of paper.



2. Use markers or crayons to decorate the front and back sides of both pieces of paper.



3. Take one sheet and hold it vertically and begin folding it back and forth to make an accordian fold.



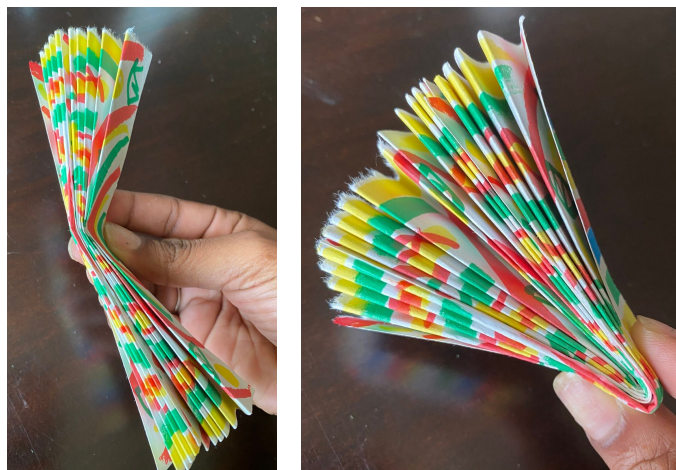
- Repeat step 3 for the other sheet of paper.



- Place a line of glue on one end of the first folded paper and attach it to one end of the second sheet of paper.



- After gluing together your two sheets of paper, keep the accordion fold intact. Next, pinch the folded paper in the middle, then fold in half. This will make your folded paper look like a "V."



7. Use a piece of tape or string to secure the center fold of the paper.



8. Use glue or tape to attach the inside edges of paper together.



9. Use glue or tape to attach a popsicle stick to the each of the outside ends of the accordion fold.



10. Gently open the accordion fold by pulling the craft sticks towards each other until they meet. Enjoy your fan!



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**Eight Immortal Cranes Celebrating Birthday, with Poem of Sailing from Jinshan to Jiaoshan, 1944**

Chinese, Zhang Yuanji 1867-1959  
Folding fan; ink and color on paper  
[East Asian Gallery, VMFA](#)  
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