

VMFA TAKE AND MAKE

Celebrate the Art of Japan: Origami Animal

Origami (Japanese words *oru* meaning folding and *kami* meaning paper) is the traditional Japanese art of paper folding. Japanese origami dates back to the 17th century and has been widely used in Japanese culture. For example, in some Japanese wedding celebrations, origami butterflies represent the bride and groom, and Samurai warriors adorned gifts with good-luck tokens made of folded strips of paper. Origami is made by making a series of “mountain” and “valley” folds on a single square piece of paper to create a sculptural or three-dimensional form. A work constructed by cutting, gluing, or taping is not considered origami. Practice your folding skills by making your own pet pal.

Instructions

1. Using scissors cut out the large square below.
2. Fold your paper in half along the dotted line to create the shape of a triangle.
3. With point “a” of the triangle facing you, fold toward you along the solid lines downward to make the ears. The middle diamond shape is the new face.
4. Using markers, colored pencils, or cut paper, make a face for your new friend!

