



# Origami Cranes

Lesson by Stephanie Perry for  
AUSTIN OPERA - 2017

## **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Students will learn about the Japanese art form of *origami*.
2. Students will learn to fold a traditional paper crane.
3. Students will learn that the crane is an international symbol for peace.

## **MATERIALS:**

- Variety of origami paper (white, colored, and patterned origami papers)
- Printed directions and video directions
  - YouTube video directions: <https://youtu.be/w2JakmLRDnU>
  - Origami Club website (with a printed diagram, animated diagram and YouTube video): <http://en.origami-club.com/traditional/crane/index.html>
- Crane examples and resources
- [Note: A typical learning size is 6" x 6" origami paper, although other sizes of paper would be fine. While printer paper could be cut into a square, it's a bit too thick and difficult to get crisp folds; origami paper is better.]
- *Sadako and the Thousand Cranes*, by Eleanor Coerr

**TIME FRAME:** One to three 45-minute class periods.

**AGE GROUP:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up

## **VOCABULARY:**

- **Origami:** The art of folding paper; the Japanese word "origami" literally means fold ("ori") paper ("gami").
- **Fold:** Bend a paper precisely, matching corners and edges carefully.
- **Crease:** Fold firmly and crisply.
- **Symmetrical:** Something that is the same on both sides.
- **Shape:** A two-dimensional object that has height and width (ex., square).
- **Form:** A three-dimensional object that has height, width, and depth (ex., cube)

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Learn about and discuss the art of origami as a traditional art form in Asian countries. Invite students to share their experiences with origami. Teach the meaning of the word *origami* itself: “origami” literally means fold (“ori”) paper (“gami”).
2. Discuss the meaning of the crane as a symbol of peace.
  - a. The crane is regarded as “an omen of ‘a life of a thousand years’ and a symbol of good fortune and long life. (The World of Origami by Isao Honda)
  - b. Traditionally, it was believed that if one folded 1000 **origami cranes**, one's wish would come true. The crane has also become a symbol of hope, peace, and healing during challenging times. Shortly after the end of World War II, the folded origami cranes came to symbolize a hope for peace through Sadako Sasaki and her unforgettable story of perseverance. (JCCC Origami Crane Project)  
[http://githensjaguarsteam.weebly.com/uploads/2/3/3/9/23397862/history\\_of\\_the\\_origami\\_crane.pdf](http://githensjaguarsteam.weebly.com/uploads/2/3/3/9/23397862/history_of_the_origami_crane.pdf)
3. Identify the basic components of making traditional origami forms: square paper, no cutting or taping or gluing, symmetrical folds, simplified forms, and designer paper tips.
4. Demonstrate the whole process of folding the crane, from start to finish, talking aloud to explain each step. Explain how to fold carefully and deliberately, crease firmly, and make symmetrical movements.
5. Show the visual instructions and the video instructions. Students may review these as needed.
6. Students will build a traditional origami crane; teacher will assist as needed. After students build one successful crane, they may “graduate” to other origami papers. [Note: Save the expensive designer papers until the student has built 3-4 successful cranes and understand the process.]
7. Optional: string cranes together to form a strand of cranes, as seen in Japanese temples. [Suggestion: use fishing line and clear beads to string cranes together. Thread a needle, go through and encircle around a bead, go through the bottom of a crane and pierce through the top, go through another bead, and repeat.]

**Websites/links to learn more about origami cranes and their symbolism:**

- <http://voices.nationalgeographic.com/2015/08/28/how-paper-cranes-become-a-symbol-of-healing-in-japan/>  
<http://asianlifestyledesign.com/2012/05/asian-symbolism-crane/>  
<http://www.lisashea.com/japan/origami/sales/history/colors/>

**TEXAS ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS (TEKS):**

ART	SOCIAL STUDIES
<p><u>Elementary:</u>            §117.117. Art, Grade 5:            1. B; 2. A; 2. C; 3. A; 3. B; 3. C; 4. A</p> <p><u>Middle School:</u>            §117.202. Art, Middle School 1            1.B; 1. C; 2. B; 2. C; 3. A; 3. B; 3. C; 4. B; 4. D</p> <p><u>High School:</u>            §117.302. Art, Level I            1.B; 1. C; 1. D; 2. E; 2. F; 3. B; 3. C; 4. A</p>	<p><u>Elementary:</u>            §113.16. Social Studies, Grade 5:            5.A; 13. C; 21. A; 21. B; 22. A; 22. B; 22. C; 23. D; 24. C</p> <p><u>Middle School:</u>            §113.18. Social Studies, Grade 6            1.B; 4. A; 4. B; 4. F; 5. B; 15. A; 15. B; 15. E; 15. F; 16. A; 17. A; 18. A; 18. B; 18. C; 18. D; 19. A</p> <p><u>High School:</u>            §113.42. World History Studies            1.A; 4. B; 16. B; 17. A; 17. B; 18. A; 18. B; 18. C</p>