

ART / CULTURAL STUDIES · Y2–Y6

# Origami: Lucky Star & Crane

Step-by-step paper folding

## About origami

The Japanese art of paper fo

- Origami comes from Japan. Ori = folding. Kami = paper.
- Traditional origami uses a single square of paper with no cutting or glue.
- Origami is used in Japan for celebrations, decoration, and as gifts.
- The paper crane (tsuru) is the most famous origami shape.
- Legend: if you fold 1,000 cranes, your wish will be granted.
- Sadako Sasaki (1943–1955): a Japanese girl who folded cranes in hospital after being diagnosed with leukaemia following the Hiroshima bombing. Her story inspired the peace movement.

## Lucky Star (beginner)

1. Start with a strip of paper approximately 30cm × 2cm.
2. Tie a loose knot in one end — gently tighten it into a flat pentagon shape.
3. Fold the long end of the strip over each flat edge of the pentagon in turn, working your way around.
4. When you reach the end, tuck the last bit under the nearest fold.
5. Pinch each of the 5 flat sides gently INWARDS with your fingernail.
6. The strip should inflate into a 3D star shape.
7. Tip: use metallic or coloured paper for extra effect.



## Simple Crane (intermediate)

1. Start with a square of paper. Fold in half both ways (landscape and portrait) — unfold each time.
2. Fold diagonally in both directions — unfold.
3. Collapse the paper into a small square (waterbomb base) using the creases you've made.
4. Fold the left and right edges of the top layer to the centre crease. Do the same on the back.
5. Fold the top point down and unfold (creates a crease for the next step).
6. Open the top layer and squash-fold along the creases to make the 'bird base'.
7. On the 'legs' of the bird base, inside reverse-fold each one to create the head and tail.
8. Gently pull the wings apart to open the body. Hold the tail, pull the head forward to set the neck.

