

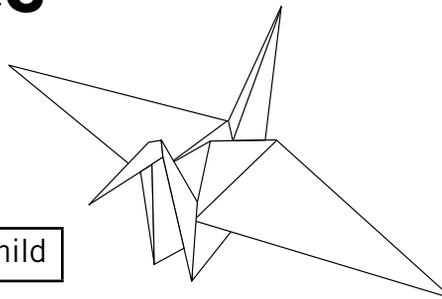


Paper Cranes of Peace

Grades 3–8

Materials:

A square sheet of paper for each child



Directions:

1. Begin with a square sheet of paper.
2. Fold the square in half diagonally, forming a triangle.
3. Fold triangle in half so that corner A meets corner B. Make a hard crease along the fold. You will have two triangles, A and B.
4. Place one hand flat on the B triangle to hold it in place. Place the other hand inside triangle A to open it like a pocket.
5. Fold corner A (the top of the pocket) down to meet corner C (the base of the pocket). Flatten out the pocket to create a diamond shape.
6. Turn the paper over and repeat the pocket fold with triangle B. You should end up with two diamond shapes, one on top of the other.
7. With the open ends pointing toward you, fold the two corners on the top layer in so that the bottom edges are lined up with the center line of the paper. See diagram.
8. Turn the paper over and repeat on the other side. When you're done, you should have a little kite.
9. Fold down the little triangle at the top of the kite, first one way, then the other. Make a hard crease on both sides.
10. Undo the folds made in steps 7, 8, and 9. You should have the folded diamond that you had in step 6, only with creases from steps 7, 8, and 9 visible.
11. Pull up the top layer at point G. Think of it as opening a bird's beak. As you open the beak, fold in sides E and F so that they meet in the middle, with point G at the top. Flatten to a form a long diamond shape. See diagram.
12. Turn the paper over and repeat on the other side. The bottom of the diamond should look like a pair of legs.

FAITH CONNECTION

Explain that, according to Japanese legend, anyone who folds a thousand paper cranes is granted a wish. Since the bombing of Hiroshima in 1945, paper cranes have become an international symbol of the wish for peace. Point out that Jesus told his apostles "I leave you peace, my peace I give you" and that, if we want peace in the world, we must share the peace of Christ with others.

13. Open the side of one of the legs. Bring up point H by folding the leg up and turning the crease inside out. Press the leg flat.
14. Repeat this step with the other side.
15. Crimp one of the points to make the crane's head.
16. Open wings to complete the crane.
17. You can make your crane flap its wings. Hold the lowest two points on the body and gently pull them apart.

