Name: _____ Date: _____

One Square of Paper and a Sharp Crease

Circle group

Origami is the art of folding paper. The word comes from Japan. It joins a word for "fold" and a word for "paper." Many folders make a bird, a frog, or a flower from one square sheet. In the old style, they use no glue and no scissors.

Good origami needs one skill, a sharp crease. Fold the paper so the edges line up. Then run your thumbnail on the fold and press it flat. A sloppy fold makes the next folds go wrong. A sharp fold keeps it neat.

A model is made step by step. One first step is to fold the square in half to make a triangle. Other steps make a point or turn the paper inside out. A paper crane takes many folds. They must be in the right order.

Paper matters, too. Thin paper folds easily and keeps small parts. Thick paper is strong but hard to fold many times.

Questions

1. Where does the word origami come from?

_____

_____

2. What do old-style folders not use?

_____

_____

3. How do you make a sharp crease?

_____

_____

4. Why is a sloppy fold a problem?

_____

_____

5. What is one first step in a model?

_____

_____

6. Why pick thin paper for a tiny part?

_____

_____

Words to know

origami: the art of folding paper into shapes
crease: a sharp line made by folding
crane: a tall bird with long legs and a long neck

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

One Square of Paper and a Sharp Crease

Triangle group

Origami is the art of folding paper into shapes. The word comes from Japan. It joins two Japanese words, one meaning "fold" and one meaning "paper." Many origami folders try to make a bird, a frog, or a flower from a single square sheet. In the traditional style, they use no glue and no scissors.

Good origami depends on one simple skill, which is a crisp crease. To make one, fold the paper so the edges line up exactly. Then run your thumbnail along the fold and press it flat. A sloppy fold makes all the later folds drift out of place. A sharp one keeps everything neat.

Origami models are built step by step. A common first step is to fold the square in half to make a triangle. Other steps make a small point or turn the paper inside out. A paper crane, for example, takes many folds, and each fold must be made in the right order.

Paper choice matters, too. Thin paper folds easily and holds tiny details. Thick paper is stronger but can be harder to fold many times. Many folders keep a pack of square paper in a bag so they can fold whenever they have a quiet moment.

Questions

1. Where does the word origami come from?

_____

_____

2. What do traditional folders use instead of glue and scissors?

_____

_____

3. How do you make a crisp crease?

_____

_____

4. Why does a sloppy fold cause trouble later?

_____

_____

5. What is one common first step in a model?

_____

_____

6. Why might a folder pick thin paper for a tiny detail?

_____

_____

Words to know

origami: the art of folding paper into shapes
crease: a sharp line made by folding
traditional: done the way it was done long ago
crane: a tall bird with long legs and a long neck

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

One Square of Paper and a Sharp Crease

Square group

Origami is the art of folding paper into shapes, and the word itself comes from Japan. It combines two Japanese words, one meaning "fold" and the other meaning "paper." Many folders strive to create a bird, a frog, or a flower out of a single square sheet. In the traditional style, they rely on neither glue nor scissors.

Skillful origami depends on one simple ability, which is making a crisp crease. To do so, fold the paper so that the edges align precisely, then run your thumbnail along the fold and press it flat. A careless fold causes every later fold to drift out of position, whereas a sharp one keeps the entire model tidy.

Origami models are constructed step by step. A common opening move is to fold the square in half to form a triangle. Other steps create a small point or turn a section of the paper inside out. A paper crane, for instance, requires many folds, and each must be made in the correct order.

The choice of paper matters as well. Thin paper folds readily and holds tiny details, while thick paper is sturdier but can be more difficult to fold many times.

Questions

1. From which country does the word origami come?

_____

_____

2. What do traditional folders avoid using?

_____

_____

3. How can you make a crisp crease?

_____

_____

4. Why does a careless fold cause trouble later on?

_____

_____

5. What is one common opening move in a model?

_____

_____

6. Why might a folder choose thin paper for a tiny detail?

_____

_____

Words to know

origami: the art of folding paper into shapes
crease: a sharp line made by folding
traditional: done the way it was done long ago
crane: a tall bird with long legs and a long neck

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: One Square of Paper and a Sharp Crease

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: One Square of Paper and a Sharp Crease

Easier · 156 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.4

1. Japan.
2. Glue and scissors.
3. Line up the edges and press the fold with your thumbnail.
4. The next folds go wrong.
5. Fold the square in half to make a triangle.
6. Thin paper folds easily and keeps small parts.

Triangle: One Square of Paper and a Sharp Crease

This passage · 205 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5

1. Japan.
2. Nothing. They only fold the paper.
3. Line up the edges, then press along the fold with your thumbnail.
4. The later folds drift out of place.
5. Folding the square in half to make a triangle.
6. Thin paper folds easily and holds small details.

Square: One Square of Paper and a Sharp Crease

Harder · 198 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.8

1. Japan.
2. Glue and scissors.
3. Align the edges, then press along the fold with your thumbnail.
4. Every later fold drifts out of position.
5. Folding the square in half to form a triangle.
6. Thin paper folds readily and holds small details.