Origami for little hands

Fold slowly, press every crease with your thumbnail, and look at the picture after each step. Mistakes are welcome – paper is very patient.
You need: one square sheet of paper, 15 × 15 cm, coloured on one side.

The flapping bird

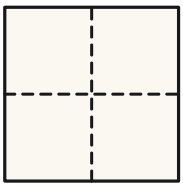
A little challenge · age 7+ · about 15 minutes

1



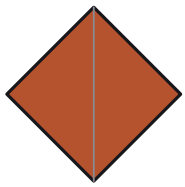
Fold the square corner to corner, both ways. Open it again.

2



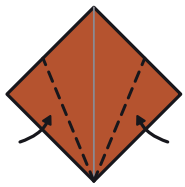
Turn it over. Fold edge to edge, both ways, and open it.

3



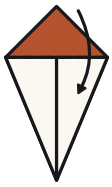
Push the sides in: the paper folds itself into a small diamond.

4



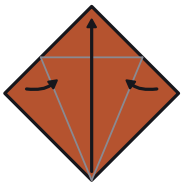
Fold the two lower edges of the front layer to the middle line.

5



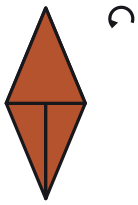
Fold the top tip down over them. Then open all three folds again.

6



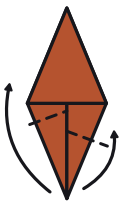
Lift the bottom corner of the front layer up as far as it goes. The sides fold in by themselves.

7



Press it flat: a long petal! Turn over and repeat steps 4–7 on the back.

8



Tuck the two lower points up inside the body – one becomes the neck, the other the tail. Crease first, then push in.

9



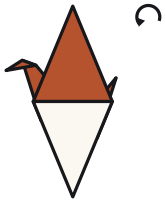
Make the head: fold the tip of the neck down inside, the same way, but small.

10



Fold the front wing down. Its tip goes lower than the tail.

11



Turn over and fold the other wing down the same way.

12



Done! Hold it under the chest and pull the tail gently: the wings flap.

> Tip: hold the bird under its chest and pull the tail gently – the wings flap! Thin paper flaps best.

Valley fold: fold towards you (dashed line)

Mountain fold: fold behind (dash-dot line)

Arrow: move the paper this way

Turn the paper over

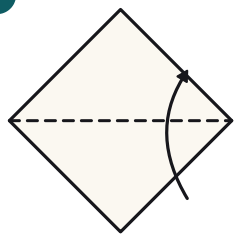
Thin grey line: a crease you made earlier

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Little sparrow

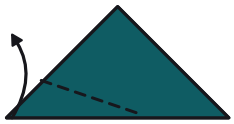
Very easy · age 5+ · about 3 minutes

1



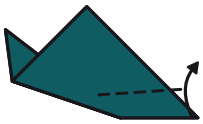
Fold the square corner to corner. You get a triangle.

2



Open the fold a little and tuck the left point up inside – that is the head. Crease first, then push it in.

3



Do the same on the right point, but lower and flatter: that is the tail.

4



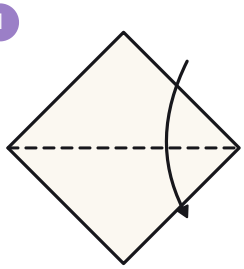
Draw a bright eye, add a beak and a wing – your little sparrow is ready to sing!

> Draw an eye and a bright beak – every sparrow looks a little different.

Little mouse

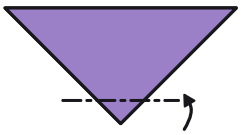
Very easy · age 5+ · about 2 minutes

1



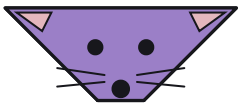
Turn the square onto a corner, like a diamond. Fold it in half: a triangle with the point down.

2



Fold the sharp tip back behind (a mountain fold): now the mouse has a flat little nose.

3



Draw eyes, nose and whiskers. The two corners are the ears – colour them pink.

> Fold a tiny tail from a strip of paper, or draw one with a pencil.

Valley fold: fold towards you (dashed line)

Mountain fold: fold behind (dash-dot line)

Arrow: move the paper this way

Turn the paper over

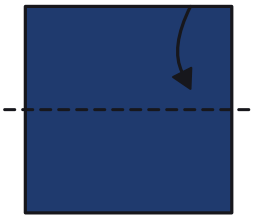
Thin grey line: a crease you made earlier

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Butterfly

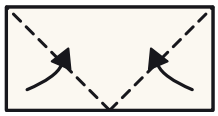
Easy · age 6+ · about 8 minutes

1



Fold the square in half.

2



Fold the two bottom corners up to the middle of the top edge.

3



Turn it over and fold the other two corners the same way.

4



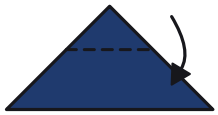
A triangle! Turn it point-up. Fold the two bottom corners of the front layer up to the top point.

5



A shining diamond! Now turn the paper over.

6



Fold the top point down, almost to the bottom edge.

7



Fold the little tip back up. This is the butterfly's body.

8



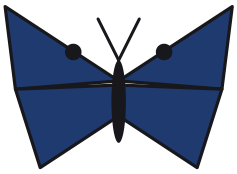
Neat! The tiny triangle locks all the layers in place. Turn over again.

9



Fold it in half along the middle, wings together behind.

10



Open the wings gently and pinch the middle: a butterfly!

> For a 3D butterfly, bend the wings a little upward and let it sit on a flower pot.

Valley fold: fold towards you (dashed line)

Mountain fold: fold behind (dash-dot line)

Arrow: move the paper this way

Turn the paper over

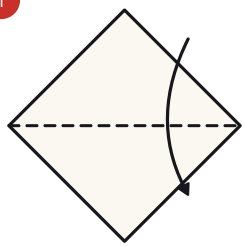
Thin grey line: a crease you made earlier

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Ladybug

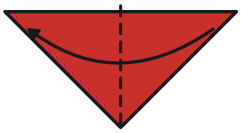
Easy · age 5+ · about 5 minutes

1



White side up. Fold the square corner to corner into a triangle.

2



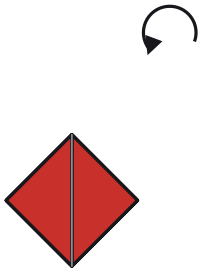
Fold the triangle in half and open it again: just a crease in the middle.

3



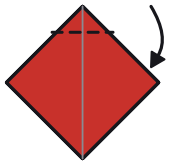
Fold the two upper corners down to the bottom point.

4



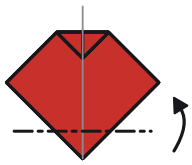
A diamond! Turn it over.

5



Fold the top tip down a little: this is the ladybug's head.

6



Fold the bottom point up behind (a mountain fold).

7



Draw a black head and spots with a pen – hello, ladybug!

Use a black marker for the spots – or glue on little round stickers.

Your turn! Draw a meadow, a nest or a pond for your paper animals.

Valley fold: fold towards you (dashed line)

Mountain fold: fold behind (dash-dot line)

Arrow: move the paper this way

Turn the paper over

Thin grey line: a crease you made earlier

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