

SENBAZURU: 1000 FOLDED CRANES

SOUTH WEST STUDENTS' PROJECT

Each of your students is invited to fold one paper crane and send it to us. The crane is a symbol of good luck in Japan. When hundreds and thousands of paper cranes are folded (*origami*) and threaded together – the *senbazuru* – they symbolise the hopes of all your students and represent their individual talents. When combined to form the *senbazuru*, they will represent the collective achievements of the school community across the South West.

In this package, please find enclosed:

- Information to provide your students with an understanding of the historical and cultural background
- An explanation of the *senbazuru* story
- Instructions on preparing paper
- Instructions on folding it, so that you can teach your students how to make the cranes
- Online and other resources suggestions

RETURNING THE CRANES

Please return the cranes to:

Partnership Office
Plymouth Institute of Education
Rolle Building
Plymouth University
Drake Circus
Plymouth, PL48AA

- For ease of returning and to protect from damage, we recommend that you carefully place the cranes inside a box (for example an empty printing paper box).

Please ensure to enclose details of your school/class and teacher's contact details and/or label each box. Afterwards each school will receive:

- An A4 sized picture of the completed crane sculpture and Japan400 Plymouth Certificate of Participation
- Acknowledgement on the Japan400 Plymouth website
- Listed mention in any press release relating to the *senbazuru*

If you require a sample of the type of paper required for creating the origami, we have some available – please email schoolexperience@plymouth.ac.uk or visit us at the address above.



SENBAZURU (1000 FOLDED CRANES)

Cultural and Historical Background



THE CRANE – TSURU

National Animal – the *tsuru* is designated as a Japanese national treasure and is an animal symbol of Japan – like the kangaroo for Australia, the panda for China, the bulldog for England, the rooster for France, the peacock for India, the kiwi for New Zealand, the blue crane for South Africa and the bald eagle for the United States.

The Japanese crane is a 'Red-Crowned Crane' (*grus japonensis*). You can see the crane in old paintings such as a hanging scroll by the famous painter, Shusuke WATANABE (1639-1707).

The crane also appears in modern times – as part of the logo for Japan Airlines, for example.



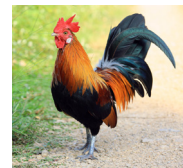
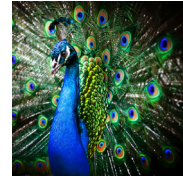
JAPAN AIRLINES



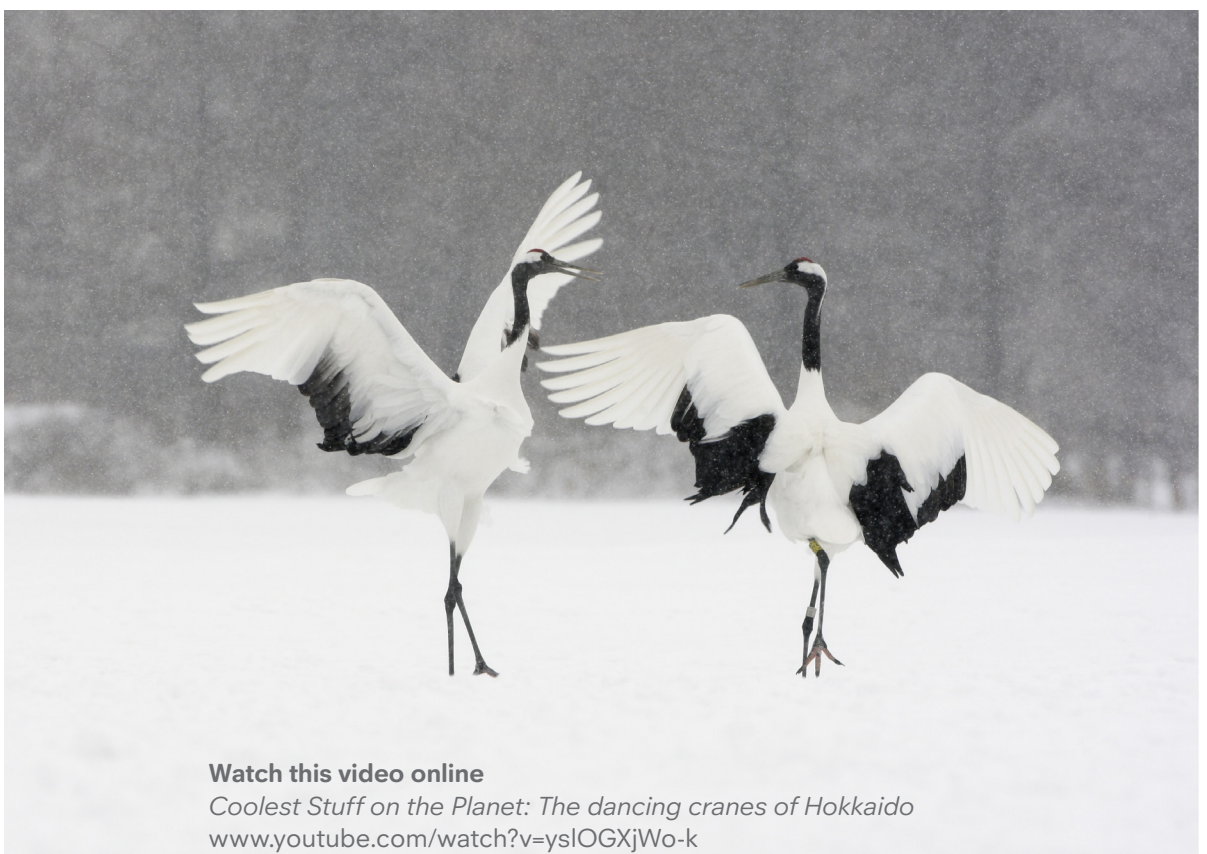
In this picture painted in 1902, you can see *Fukurokuju*, the god of wisdom and long life. He is often seen with the crane.

鶴は千年、亀は万年

The crane has many important meanings (symbols), the most important of which is that it is a symbol of good luck. This is because, in traditional myth, it was said that the crane lives for one-thousand years. There is a famous saying in Japanese, '*tsuru wa sen-nen, kame wa man-nen.*' This means, 'the crane lives for one-thousand years, the turtle lives for ten-thousand years'. 1,000 and 10,000 are very happy numbers in Japanese.



The crane is also a symbol of fidelity and loyalty: being true to the person you love forever. When cranes mate, they become a couple until they die. In Japan, the dance that two cranes do is considered beautiful and special.



Watch this video online

Coollest Stuff on the Planet: The dancing cranes of Hokkaido
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysLOGXjWo-k

折り紙

Origami



Origami literally means:

- to fold (*ori* or *oru*; the left hand side of 折 means your 'hand', and the right hand side of 折 means 'to bend'; the character together means 'to bend with your hands', or 'to fold')
- paper (*kami*; the left-hand side of 紙 is thread or cloth, and is important because paper comes from threads of wood or reeds called pulp; *kami* is also the word for 'god', so paper is often thought to be sacred in Japan. When you go to a shrine or temple, you will see paper tied onto trees and ropes which symbolise a special and sacred place)

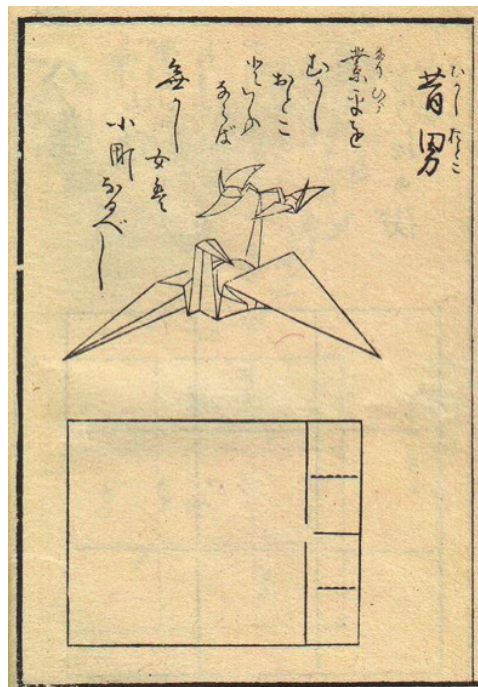


Origami is an art that has come from ancient Japan. It evolved from using paper to wrap gifts that were given to the gods in Japanese shrines, as well as gifts that were given to each other.

Paper folding developed especially in the Muromachi period (1337-1573). This period, ruled by a family dynasty of Shogun (military generals) called the Ashikaga, is famous for the development of beautiful and elaborate art, including *origami*.



The oldest book on *origami* that we know of is called the *Hiden senbazuru orikata* ('How to Fold a Thousand Cranes'). It was published in 1797. Before, *origami* was usually taught by older people to younger people. After this book was published, the secrets of *origami* were recorded, and many more people could now learn to fold paper, including paper cranes. These pictures show two pages from the book, and two ladies with a child folding paper cranes – you can see the small scissors to cut the paper.



千羽鶴

Senbazuru

*Counting in Japanese

When you count objects in Japanese, you normally add a counter-suffix that is specific to the object you are counting. For example, the number two is pronounced 'ni' (as in 'knee'), but:

- two pieces of paper becomes *ni-mai* (*mai* refers to flat objects)
- two animals (dogs, cats, elephants, etc.) becomes *ni-hiki* (*hiki* refers to 'beasts')
- two books becomes *ni-satsu* (*satsu* refers to pieces of paper bound together)
- two birds becomes *ni-wa* (*wa* refers to birds and rabbits, and in the case of one-thousand the pronunciation is changed to make it easier to say, from *sen-wa* to *sen-ba*).

So, *senbazuru* literally means, 'one-thousand cranes'.

** The story of Sadako Sasaki has crossed over into legend with variations emphasising different things. In this rendering, Sadako's endurance – particularly in the most difficult phases of her illness – is highlighted. The other significant elements to the story are the completion of the task by the wider community, the determination of one person inspiring many other people and the idea of a collective achievement which is dependent on the efforts and commitment of each individual.

Right: *Senbazuru* are made to make a special wish at a shrine. They are threaded together and hung next to wooden plaques on which people have written their wishes. At the end of the year, the plaques and the *senbazuru* are burned in a bonfire. The smoke and flames carry the wishes to heaven.

In the saying 'A crane lives one-thousand years, a turtle lives ten-thousand years', 'one-thousand' in Japanese is pronounced as 'sen':

- *Sen nen* (千年) is 'one thousand years'
- *Senba zuru* (千羽鶴) is 'one thousand cranes' *

SENBAZURU

Traditional Meaning

The *senbazuru* describes the art of folding one-thousand paper cranes. In folklore, it was said that if you make a wish and then make one-thousand paper cranes, your wish will then come true. The thousand paper cranes are then threaded together to make a beautiful hanging sculpture which are given as gifts, especially for weddings and the birth of a child.

SENBAZURU

New Meaning: the story of Sadako Sasaki

After the Second World War, the *senbazuru* took on a special new meaning, following the attempt by one young girl, Sadako Sasaki (7 January 1943 – 25 October 1955) to make a *senbazuru*. The story excerpt overleaf was written by the Hiroshima International School.** The lyrics for the song, *Crane's over Hiroshima*, written by Fred Small and performed by Jim Couza, are available on page 6.

Videos to watch online

For the story of Sadako SASAKI:

Tumer, Ece Kahraman, 'Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes' (5:02 minutes)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=fABpssKWCoE

This clip contains historical documentary footage and images which may be useful for a historical focus. The clip is not narrated, but it does include captions which can be read as a narration, and which highlight possible questions to ask students.

Simon, Steve, 'Sadako Sasaki' (4:40 minutes)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcsKcgEtINc

This clip narrates Sadako's story and includes interesting details. The visual paints an image of Sadako meeting a crane.



THE STORY OF SADAKO SASAKI**



Sadako was two years old when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. She was two kilometers away from where the bomb exploded. Most of Sadako's neighbours died, but Sadako wasn't injured at all, at least not in any way people could see.

Up until the time Sadako was in the seventh grade (1955) she was a normal, happy girl. However, one day after an important relay race that she helped her team win, she felt extremely tired and dizzy. After a while the dizziness went away leaving Sadako to think that it was only the exertion from running the race that made her tired and dizzy. But her tranquillity did not last. Soon after her first encounter with extreme fatigue and dizziness, she experienced more incidents of the same.

One day Sadako became so dizzy that she fell down and couldn't get up. Her school-mates informed the teacher. Later Sadako's parents took her to the Red Cross Hospital to see what was wrong with her. Sadako found out that she had leukemia, a kind of blood cancer. Nobody could believe it.

At that time they called leukemia the "A-bomb disease". Almost everyone who got this disease died, and Sadako was very scared. She wanted to go back to school, but she had to stay in the hospital where she cried and cried.

Shortly thereafter, her best friend, Chizuko, came to visit her. Chizuko brought some *origami* (folding paper). She told Sadako of a legend. She explained that the crane, a sacred bird in Japan, lives for a hundred years, and if a sick person folds 1,000 paper cranes, then that person would soon get well. After hearing the legend, Sadako decided to fold 1,000 cranes in the hope that she would get well again.

Sadako's family worried about her a lot. They often came to visit her in hospital to talk to her and to help her fold cranes. After she folded 500 cranes she felt better and the doctors said she could go home for a short time, but by the end of the first week back home the dizziness and fatigue returned and she had to go back to the hospital.

Sadako kept folding cranes even though she was in great pain. Even during these times of great pain she tried to be cheerful and hopeful. Not long afterwards, with her family standing by her bed, Sadako went to sleep peacefully, never to wake up again. She had folded a total of 644 paper cranes.

Everyone was very sad. Thirty-nine of Sadako's classmates felt saddened by the loss of their close friend and decided to form a paper crane club to honor her. Word spread quickly. Students from 3,100 schools and from 9 foreign countries gave money to the cause. On May 5, 1958, almost 3 years after Sadako had died, enough money was collected to build a monument in her honor. It is now known as the Children's Peace Monument and is located in the center of Hiroshima Peace Park, close to the spot where the atomic bomb was dropped.

Many of the children who helped make the Children's monument a reality participated in the ceremony. Three students, including Sadako's younger brother Eiji Sasaki, pulled the red and white tape off the statue to symbolize its completion, while Beethoven's Seventh Symphony was played. The little bell, contributed by Dr. Yukawa, inscribed with "A Thousand Paper Cranes" on the front and "Peace on Earth and in Heaven" on the back, rang out and the sound carried as far as the A-bomb Dome and the Memorial Cenotaph. Adults who supported the group later formed the "Paper Crane Club" in June. (The original Paper Crane Club disbanded in 1997).

Children from all over the world still send folded paper cranes to be placed beneath Sadako's statue. In so doing, they make the same wish which is engraved on the base of the statue:

"This is our cry, This is our prayer, Peace in the world".

CRANES OVER HIROSHIMA



Videos to watch online

Silentmoviequeen, 'Sadako Sasaki - Cranes over Hiroshima' (5:31 minutes)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=f03yLeNXw7U

There are a number of videos for this song. This compilation video made by Silentmoviequeen, however, provides a highly varied and appropriate visual backdrop to the song 'Cranes over Hiroshima' written by Fred Small and performed by Jim Couza.

The baby blinks her eyes as the sun falls from the sky
She feels the stings of a thousand fires as the city around her dies
Some sleep beneath the rubble, some wake to a different world
From the crying babe will grow a laughing girl.

Ten summers fade to autumn, ten winters' snows have passed
She's a child of dreams and dances, she's a racer strong and fast
But the headaches come ever more often and the dizziness always returns
And the word that she hears is leukemia, and it burns.

CHORUS

Cranes over Hiroshima, white and red and gold
Flicker in the sunlight like a million vanished souls
I will fold these cranes of paper to a thousand one by one
And I'll fly away when I am done.

Her ancestors knew the legend--if you make a thousand cranes
From squares of colored paper, it will take the pain away
With loving hands she folds them, six hundred forty-four
Till the morning her trembling fingers can't fold anymore.

CHORUS

Her friends did not forget her--crane after crane they made
Until they reached a thousand and laid them upon her grave
People from everywhere gathered, together a prayer they said
And they wrote the words in granite so none can forget:

FINAL CHORUS:

This is our cry, this is our prayer, peace in the world.



THE ATOM BOMB AND HIROSHIMA

Facts about the atomic bombing of Hiroshima

- 7th largest city in Japan with a population of 245,000 people (around the same size as Plymouth now)
- Industrial centre with major harbour
- Selected as an important industrial and military centre

Atom bomb

- Dropped on 6 August 1945
- It was delivered by a large US military plane (B-29 Bomber) called the Enola Gay, and the mission commander was Paul Tibbets
- The bomb was called 'The Little Boy'
- 70,000-80,000 were instantly killed; another 70,000 were injured
- 69% of buildings were destroyed



SENBAZURU - THE 1000 FOLDED CRANES

INSTRUCTIONS

1. How to prepare square origami paper from an A4 sheet of paper

This guide teaches you how to prepare a regular A4 paper for *origami*. Papers need to be square before they can be used to fold most *origami*. Follow the steps below to prepare an A4 paper for **origami**.

Adapted from: *Origamiway*, 'Preparing Regular 8x11 Paper for Origami', *Origamiway.com* website, <http://www.origamiway.com/make-origami-paper.shtml> (accessed 14 July 2014)

Step 1: Take one sheet of A4 paper.



Step 2: Take the left corner and fold it down to the right side. Make sure the right corner is creased at the very tip.



Step 3: Take the upper right corner and fold it down to the left, connecting the corner to the left corner where the original fold was made.



Step 4: Fold the bottom rectangle backwards and crease it well by using your fingernails to run along the edge.



Step 5: Unfold the rectangle to its original position.



Step 6: Unfold the whole paper.



Step 7: Cut out the bottom rectangle or if you creased it really well with your fingernails, you can tear it off. To tear off, place the paper flat on a table and with each hand firmly placed on the rectangle and the rest of the paper, slowly spread the pieces apart.



Step 8: Now you have a perfect square ready for *origami*!



SENBAZURU - THE 1000 FOLDED CRANES

INSTRUCTIONS



2. What kind of paper can I use?

Traditionally, *origami* was folded using a special form of dyed paper called *washi*. Fibrous and highly patterned in design, it had a heavier consistency which made for easy and sharp folding edges.

Almost any paper can be used for *origami*. However, when choosing paper, three considerations are important:

i. Weight

Pre-prepared *origami* paper that is now widely available for purchase is usually slightly lighter or as the same consistency of photocopy paper. You can use photocopy paper which, when cut into a square, folds into a medium-to-large size crane. Gift-wrapping paper of similar weight can also be used, though, in this case, extra care will need to be taken to ensure the squares you cut are of the same size.

Avoid very thin paper such as crepe paper or tissue paper, as this isn't robust enough to hold the shape of the *origami* crane (e.g. the wings will simply flop).

Avoid overly heavy paper such as craft card or any laminated paper. In the case of card, the texture of the paper can make it difficult to crease sharp folds and/or the creases may rip easily. Laminated and plasticised paper may not be amenable to sharp folding creases.

ii. Colour

Pre-prepared *origami* paper usually comes in multi-coloured packs of single or double coloured sides. If you are using plain white paper, to add colour and activity, ask students to write a wish or draw a picture using many colours that fill up one side. This will create a pattern not dissimilar to *washi* when folded.

iii. Size

You can make *origami* as large as you like. Most pre-prepared *origami* paper comes in set sizes: small (around 3 or 4 inches square), medium (around 6 to 8 inches square, i.e. around the size of an A4 paper), or large (>10 inches). Medium-sized paper is often easier for young people to use.

NOTE: ideally, please submit cranes that are all of the same size.

SUGGESTION: if you wish to use pre-prepared *origami* paper, this can be purchased for as little as £5.00-£8.00 for 100 sheets from merchants such as www.amazon.co.uk.



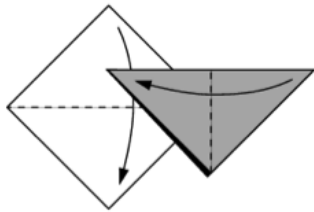
SENBAZURU - THE 1000 FOLDED CRANES

INSTRUCTIONS

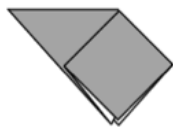
origami crane

easy folding instructions

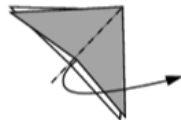
- 1** Start with a square sheet of paper. Fold it in half diagonally, then fold it in half again.



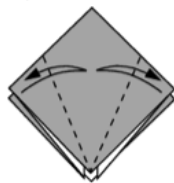
- 2** Place your thumb under the top sheet, pulling it to the right to form a square. Crease the folds.



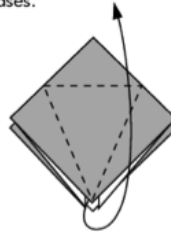
- 3** Turn the paper over and repeat step 2.



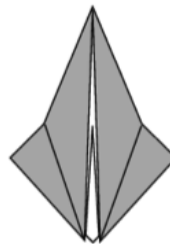
- 4** Fold the right and left corners to the center line, crease the folds, and reopen.



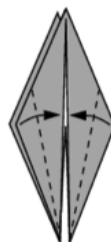
- 5** Grasp the lower tip and pull up as shown by the arrow. Fold at the horizontal dotted line. Note that right and left corners will swing to the center. Fold along creases.



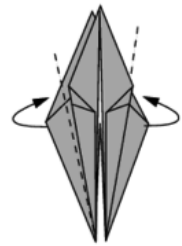
- 6** Turn the paper over and repeat step 5.



- 7** Fold right and left corners to center, and crease. Turn the paper over and repeat this step.



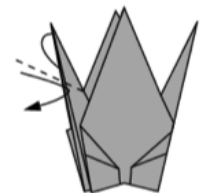
- 8** Fold the right flap to the left, turn the paper over and, once again, fold the right flap to the left.



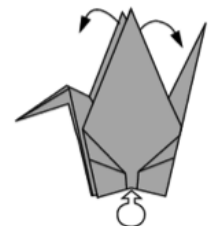
- 9** Fold the two lower points up between the two flaps on each side.



- 10** Swing the two tips out slightly, and crease. Fold one tip downward to form the head.



- 11** Spread the wings and crease. Blow a little air into the hole underneath to fill out the body. You're done!



2. How to fold an origami crane

These instructions were taken from the University of Toronto Origami Club website. They can be downloaded by going to the webpage, scrolling down, and clicking on the image:

Dian, Florina Orihime Lakshmi (2010), 'Origami Crane Instructions', Fly with Origami, Learn to Dream, University of Toronto Origami Club, <http://utfold.com/2010/09/08/origami-crane-instructions/> (accessed 14 July 2014)

Other illustrated instructions can be found at:

Brewer, Mary J. (2014), 'Origami Crane Instructions #4787', Goclom Origami – Origami fur kinder, <http://goclom.net/origami-papier/origami-crane-instructions.aspx>, (accessed 14 July 2014)

SENBAZURU - THE 1000 FOLDED CRANES

INSTRUCTIONS

Video Tutorials

The following clips on Youtube provide instructions on how to fold origami cranes:

'How to Make a Paper Crane – Origami' (8:47 minutes)

Rob's World

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSijU52XJ7w>

Includes instructions on:

- Preparing square paper
- Full demonstration and narration, including the final fold to represent a beak

OR

'Origami: Crane [Tutorial]' (6:00 minutes)

Tavin's Origami Instructions

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ux1ECrNDZI4>

Includes instructions on:

- Full demonstration and narration, including corresponding illustrated diagrams in corner of screen

NOTE: this does not include instructions on how to prepare square paper, and it does not demonstrate the final fold that represents the head.

Other Resources

There are many books and online resources teaching origami. In addition to the various websites listed above, other resources include:

Coerr, Eleanor (2009), *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*, Pearson.

How to Senbazuru Blogspot, <http://howtosenbazuru.blogspot.co.uk/2012/04/tradition-and-history.html>, (last accessed 14 July 2014).

Ishii, Takayuki (2013), *One Thousand Paper Cranes: The Story of Sadako and the Children's Peace Statue*, Laurel Leaf Library.

