Folding Origami

Grade Level: 3-5

Purpose: To practice folding paper in the art of origami, often associated with Japanese culture, creating a boat and a gull from the story about Kamome. Origami is also important in teaching symmetry; for many of the folds, whatever is done to one side is done to the other. Origami is also a way to teach and manipulate basic geometric shapes such as squares, rectangles, and triangles.

Time: 10 to 15 minute sessions per creation. Additional 15 minutes if students are going to decorate their paper (as illustrated in the video). 30 minutes to make a class origami mural.

Educational Standards:

R1.3.1, W1.5.1, VPA1.1, VPA 1.5, VPA 2.6, VPA 4.4

Materials:

3 sheets of Origami paper per student (or other foldable paper cut into square pieces)

{lightweight 8 ½ X 8 ½” paper is a good size for young children to work with}

Origami instruction sheet

Computer and computer projector with sound to show the videos.

Procedure:

*Origami tips for the teacher: Practice making the origami beforehand. Guide students to crease each fold well. Also guide students to match up the edges of the paper when folding. When instructing a large group it is helpful to have students hold up their work after each fold. This gives the teacher information on who needs more help and keeps everyone working together. In showing the video you could pause it after each fold is made to check student work.*

*For students who master the origami quickly, provide them with extra sheets of paper, in smaller sizes if you have them, to make more of the object. Some students in your class may already be familiar with origami and may want to show others how to make some of their favorite origami creatures.*

1. Read the book The Extraordinary Voyage of Kamome, to your students. Show them the illustrations as you read the book.

Origami means “paper folding” in Japanese. Following the reading, tell the students they will learn how to fold paper to make a boat and a gull, as illustrated in the book. Tell the students about how origami became an art in Japan. The word comes from two characters: [折り紙](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/%E6%8A%98%E3%82%8A%E7%B4%99), from ori meaning "folding", and kami meaning "paper."

2. Panga Boat - this is a model of the type of boat in Kamome.

(a) Distribute origami folding paper to students – one sheet per student.

(b) Show the video - Panga boat: <https://youtu.be/j5tIEiVlHuU> (4.23 min long),

pausing the video as necessary to guide students.

*The most difficult part is turning the boat inside out for the final step. Some children may benefit from your assistance in this step.*

2. Easy Gull:

(a) Distribute origami folding paper to students – one sheet per student.

(b) Go to: <https://youtu.be/WtLQ2haBeNA> (1.58 min long) to make the easy gull, pausing the video as necessary to guide students.

3. The gull is illustrated in the Kamome book.

(a) Distribute origami folding paper to students – one sheet per student

(b) Go to: <https://youtu.be/x6GgbUt-fJE> (4.57 min long) to make the standing gull, pausing the video as necessary to guide students.

4. Lead students in a discussion of how their origami figures can help tell the story of Kamome. Ask students if they would make any changes or improvements to their work to better illustrate the story. Ask students to write about their origami creations and what they symbolize in the story of Kamome.

5. Making a class origami mural. Have students look at the picture on Kamome in the ocean with the sea creatures. Take butcher paper to draw a large sketch of the ocean and the boat on the paper. Look at origami instructions online or in a book. Students can make different origami sea creatures and paste them onto the paper.

Extension Activities:

1. For videos and talks and more origami folding and its applications to STEM, go to the Art Curator for kids: https://artclasscurator.com/origami-for-kids/

2. Guide students to create a collage of a scene on poster paper of the ocean, gluing on their Origami boat and gull(s). They can show the boat drifting across the ocean from Japan to California.

3. Instructions for simple origami are included in with packets of purchased origami paper that can be used to guide students in folding more objects. The Origami cup is a very simple and popular fold for children!

4. Your school library likely has children’s books where origami is an important part, such as Tree of Cranes by Allen Say, or One Thousand Paper Cranes: The Story of Sadako and the Children's Peace Statue by Ishii Takayuki. Choose a book to read to the class. Have students make some of the origami figures in the story.