



Craft
Ages 9–12
30–60 minutes

Origami Butterfly Craft + Installation

Description

Following step-by-step instructions (with images), each participant will learn how to fold an origami butterfly. If time permits, multiple butterflies can be folded. After making several butterflies, participants can create an indoor or outdoor installation

Number of Participants

For any number of participants

Space Considerations

An indoor space where participants can be seated to do a craft

Competencies

- Artistic expression
- Creative expression
- Development of fine motor skills
- Eye-hand coordination
- Following directions

Materials

- Origami paper (preferred) or printer paper cut to a perfect square
 - Size of paper: 7.5cm x 7.5cm is preferred
 - 15cm x 15cm quartered will give you 4 squares at 7.5cm x 7.5cm
- Pencil crayons (optional)

Preparation

- Place a small stack of origami paper or paper squares on each table for participants
- We highly recommend that staff leading this program and additional support staff try this origami folding first to learn it before instructing participants

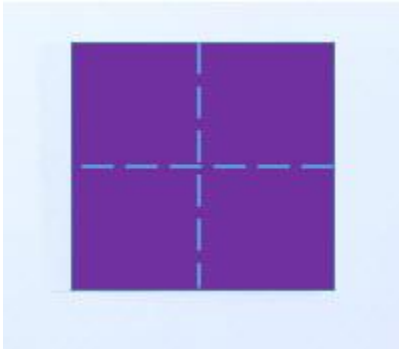
- Encouraging quick learners in the program to assist their peers is also helpful

Implementation

Origami Instructions

Note: Origami paper is used for the images – one side is coloured and the other side is white

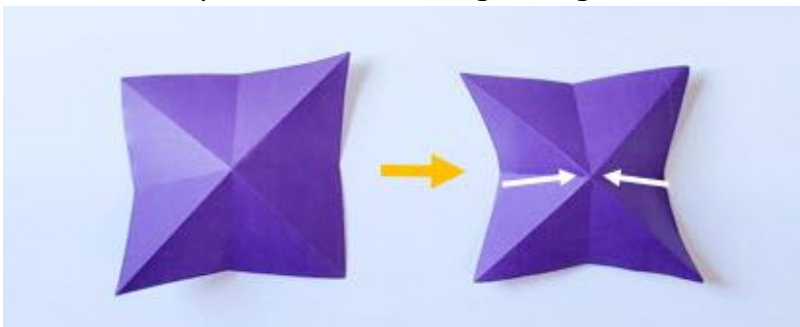
1. Place square with the colour/pattern side up and white side down. Fold in half horizontally and then fold in half vertically



2. Flip square over and fold diagonally in both directions

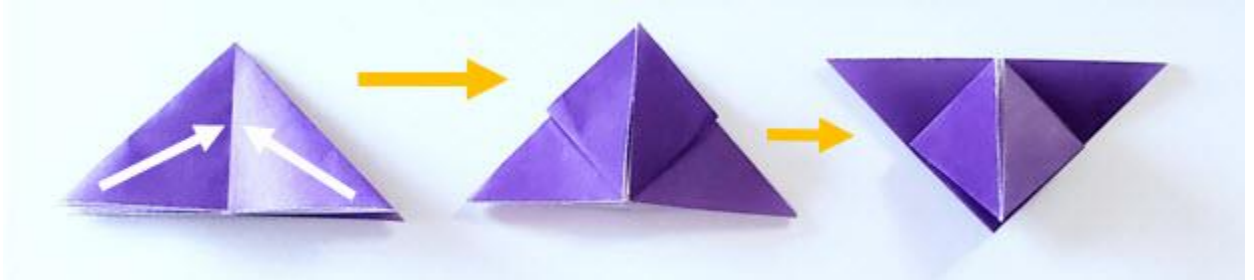


3. Flip square over and push the triangles on the left and right side towards the centre with your pointer fingers. Use your middle fingers and thumbs to flatten the top and bottom triangles together



4. Position triangle flat on a surface and fold the first layer corner flaps to meet the centre line

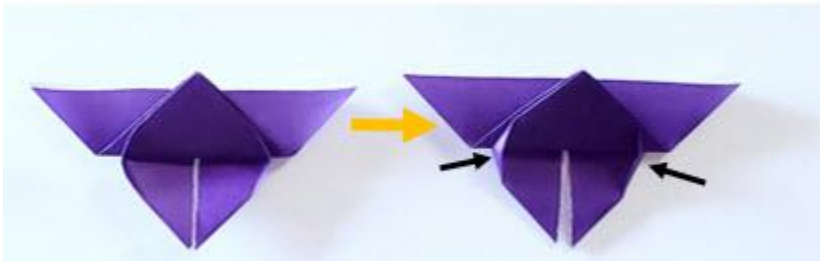
Rotate the figure so the triangle point is on the bottom



5. Fold the figure horizontally in half backwards (it should look like a paper boat). The tip of the back triangle should extend slightly above the top edge of the figure, and the crease down the centre of the back triangle should align with the crease down the centre of the front triangle



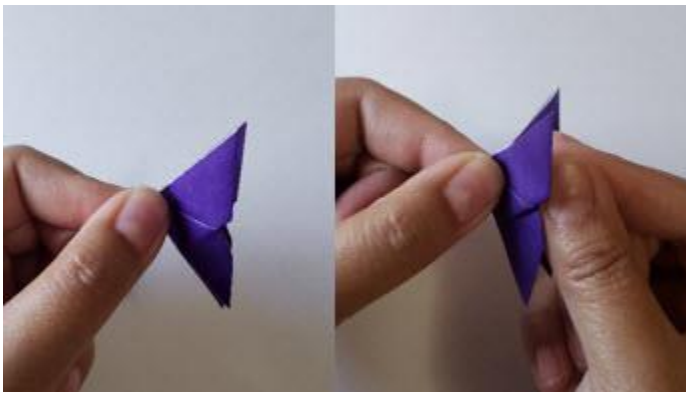
6. Flip over the figure and try to flatten it. As you do, you will notice two small triangles on the sides of the bottom triangle automatically flatten out. Press down on these triangles and then flip figure over



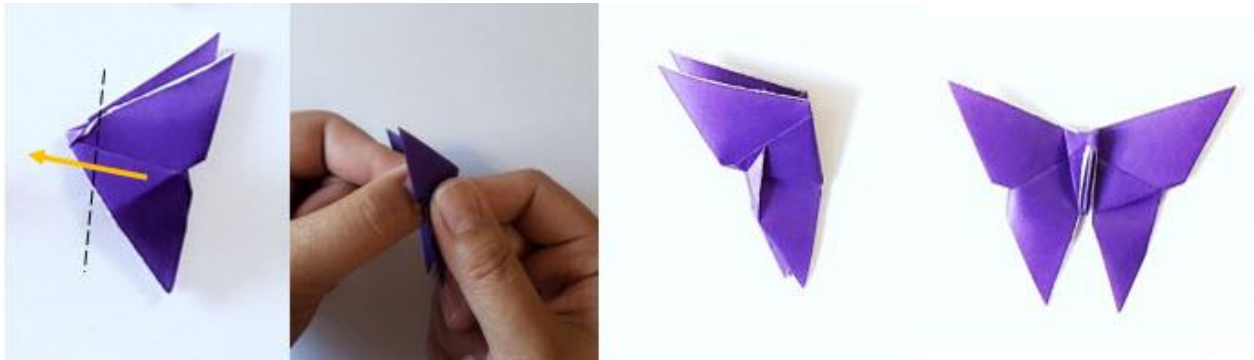
7. You will notice the tip of the triangle extending past the top edge of the figure. Fold this forward over the top edge and then fold the butterfly in half backwards. The back of the wings should align and touch each other



8. Pinch the butterfly body with your left pointer finger and thumb, so you are covering the butterfly head and part of the body. Now take your right thumb and pointer finger and place them between the back of the wings



9. Push the wings forward towards your pinched fingers on your left hand, wrapping the wings around them, and remove your pinched fingers. You can pinch the wings together with your right thumb and pointer finger, then open it up like a book. Congratulations! You have completed your butterfly!



Additional Options

- Butterflies can be made in various sizes
- Participants can decorate one side of their origami paper or paper square before folding it. (Markers not recommended as the ink will bleed onto the other side of the paper)

Origami Butterfly Installation Notes

Indoor

- Please do not use tape on surfaces that will cause damage or remove paint
- Consider assigning a bulletin board for your butterfly installation

Outdoor

- Please do not use tape or glue on nature or disrupt any living space for insects or creatures
- You can tuck them on flowers, trees or bushes or place them on rocks or tree stumps
- Consider using a fence for your butterfly installation

Accessibility Considerations

- Use large square pieces of paper (must be perfect squares)
- Offer kids a variety of instruments to colour and decorate their paper, and encourage them to choose what they feel most comfortable with
- Origami Butterfly Instructions file is a Word document and the text size is 16pt. The document can be changed to a larger font if needed.

Book Suggestions

The Bug Club by Elise Gravel

The Bug Girl (A True Story) by Sophia Spencer, Margaret McNamara and Kerascoët

Burt the Beetle Doesn't Bite! by Ashley Spires

A Long Way Home by Jean Little and Gabrielle Grimard

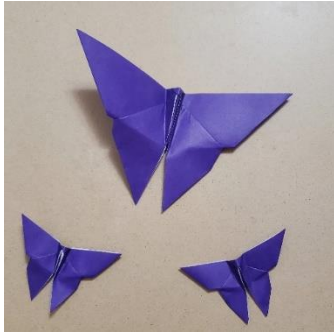
The Mystery of the Monarchs: How Kids, Teachers, and Butterfly Fans Helped Fred and Norah Urquhart Track the Great Monarch Migration by Barb Rosenstock and Erika Meza

Download Links

[Origami Butterfly Instructions \(.docx\)](#)

Images

Two sizes of origami butterflies



Origami butterfly on a flower



Origami butterflies on a bulletin board



Origami butterflies on a tree

