

Keeping Peace

Goal: Students will create their own definition of peace and express the importance of being a peacekeeper.

Objectives:

- 1) Using their own words, students will define peace in terms of the five senses.
- 2) Students will brainstorm ways in which they and their fellow classmates may work as peacemakers in their classrooms, schools, and communities.
- 3) Students will practice fine motor skills and following directions through an origami crane activity.

Directions:

- 1) Have students read the story about Sadako Sasaki (if you would like to read more about this girl and the legend of the origami crane, see *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr).
- 2) Work together as a class to follow the instructions provided to make an origami crane. This may be difficult for children in early elementary grades. You will probably want to practice crane-making ahead of time so that you can help interpret the instructions for your class.
- 3) Have each student complete the “Peace is . . .” worksheet.
- 4) Have students share their ideas about how to be peacemakers. You may want to choose a couple of ideas to implement in your classroom, the school, or the community. Students could also implement their ideas about being peacemakers at home and keep a journal about their progress.

“This is our cry,
This is our prayer;
Peace in the world.”

-- words inscribed on Sadako Sasaki’s statue in Hiroshima’s Peace Park

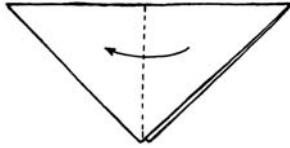
For years after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japanese people still felt the impact of the atomic explosions. Over time, the radiation released from the blasts caused many people to develop a form of cancer called leukemia.

In 1954, 12 year-old Sadako Sasaki became ill with this horrible disease. Sadako believed the Japanese legend that if she made 1000 origami cranes and brought them to the temple as an offering, the gods would answer her prayer to be well again. She folded 644 cranes before passing away on October 25, 1955.

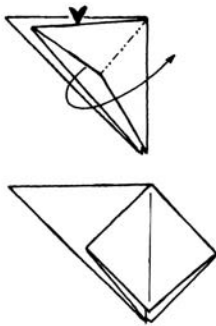
Sadako’s friends finished her chain of 1000 cranes and soon Sadako’s story spread throughout Japan. In 1958, the city of Hiroshima erected a statue of Sadako in their Peace Park. The crane now serves as a Japanese symbol of peace. Follow the instructions provided to fold your own paper crane. Your class may send your paper cranes to the museum and we will add them to our chain to represent a wish for peace.

Crane Folding Instructions

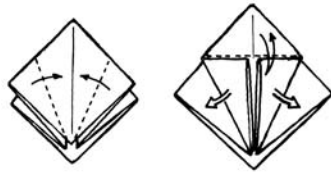
1. Fold your square of paper in half diagonally.
2. Fold the paper in half again.



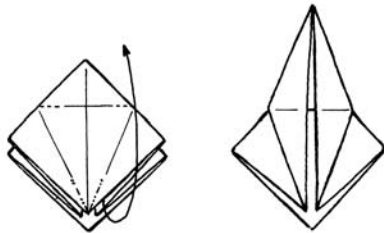
3. Open each side of the triangle into a diamond. Press the sides open. Repeat with the other side.



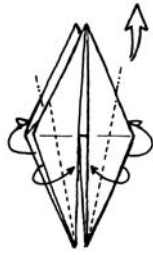
4. Holding the diamond with the opening at the bottom, fold the side corners in to the center as shown. Create a crease by folding the top corner down over the sides after they have been folded inward. Press all folds to create creases and return the form to its original diamond shape. Turn the diamond over and repeat these steps on the opposite side.



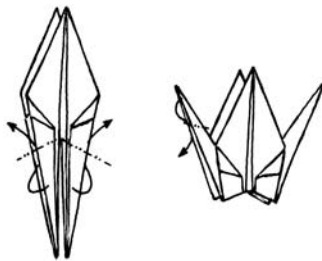
5. Lift only the upper layer of the diamond shape and press it down on a crosswise crease. The edges will meet in the center, forming a long diamond shape. This will form the bird's wing. Repeat this step on the opposite side of the figure.



6. Fold the edges of the diamond inward as before. Do this on both sides of the figure.



7. Pull each of these new folds outward and upward to create the bird's neck and tail.



8. Gently pull the wings apart and fold down the head of the bird.



Peace is . . .

Peace means many different things to different people. Use this worksheet to help you create your own definition of peace. Complete the sentences to describe what peace means to you.

Peace feels like . . .

Peace tastes like . . .

Peace smells like . . .

Peace sounds like . . .

Peace looks like . . .

I can be a peacemaker in my home by . . .

I can be a peacemaker in my classroom by . . .

I can be a peacemaker at school by . . .

I can help bring peace to my community by . . .