
Origami Safari: A Daily Practice with Faith Hale

Chapter 1 - Origami Safari: A Daily Practice

Overview

- Turning a two dimensional piece of paper into a three dimensional structure is one of the most simple and also thrilling creative acts, which is why I love origami. I'm Faith Hale. I'm a crafter and an artist, and I've been folding origami for over 20 years. There are so many different origami structures, but my absolute favorite are animals. I think it's extra fascinating to turn a flat piece of paper into something that resembles something having life. There's also so much personality you can give by just changing folds ever so slightly. In this class, we're going to do 15 different animals, and all you need is a little bit of time, a little bit of patience, and a piece of paper. I still remember the satisfaction of folding my first paper crane, and I get that same excitement when I learn a new structure. Origami is so portable. All you need is a little square of paper and you can make something anywhere.

Materials

- The supplies you'll need for origami could not be more simple. You'll need a square of lightweight paper. You can use text weight paper. Also, butcher paper might be a good substitute, but really your best bet when you're first starting out is to work with an origami specific paper. It's colored on one side, white on the other, which makes it a lot easier to follow directions, and the lightweight nature of it makes it really easy to make crisp folds. It's fun to play around with different sizes. The more complex projects will be easier to do if you have a larger paper. For the purposes of this class, I'll be working mainly with the six inch paper.

Day 1 - Penguin

- A penguin is a super fun first project because it begs to be made in multiples. The instant I finished my first one, I wanted to make a hundred more. Begin by folding point to point. And I think it's always important to line up the points first before creasing. It might be tempting to want to fold it in half and focus on the crease and then hope that the points end up even, but that often doesn't happen. So focus on the points first. We'll rotate it and make a fold. About a third of the way down. It's going to go from the point to here. You might need to use a fingernail to anchor this and it's folding one side at a time. Flip it over and repeat on the other side. This is an instance when you can focus on the folds, 'cause we're trying to match the folds. When these are creased really nicely, open it up and fold up the bottom of our penguin. We folding up about a fifth of the way. This also isn't super exact. You can play with it and you'll fold the top inch forward. This doesn't have to be a super strong crease. You'll see why in a second. So with this folded down, this folded up. Fold this in half. Wait. There he is. He's already here. If you wanna give him a little bit more personality, pull up the beak and squash down. Amazing.

Day 2 - Angel fish

- An angel fish stays relatively flat when folded, so it makes it a great option for adding to cards or like a bulletin board, anything that needs to stay flat but still have a little bit of dimension. Begin with the colored side of the paper up and fold two edges together, lining up our corners, and creasing really well. Open it back up and rotate at 90 degrees and repeat that process, open it back

up, and then have the white side facing up. And we're going to do point to point. I like to do my creases beginning in the center, moving to the side. Open that back up, rotate it. Point to point again. Now we're going to bring these three points to meet this point. This is a pretty foundational origami fold. You can fold it on one side, one side. Finally squashing down that third side and give these a good crease. We'll rotate it. And here is the face of our fish. And we're going to fold up one edge, keeping this a sharp point, maybe a fourth of the way. Then we'll fold this along the edge. We just fold it up and it should make it symmetrical, top and bottom. And there we have our angel fish.

Day 3 - Fox

- The fox is a really fun project because it's super simple, but you can play with the folds a little bit to add to its personality. Begin with the blank side of the paper up and fold, point to point. Then you'll fold each of these points to meet in the center. Fold this in half with these sides on top. So these will end up being our feet, and these will end up being our ears. We're going to make a crease right about here, so maybe an eighth of the way in from the bottom edge, going to about a fifth of the way from the top. If you fold it to the corner, you'll have little pointed feet and big bat ears like a fennec fox. If you fold it with a little bit more generous feet, you'll have smaller ears like a regular fox. We're gonna fold all the pieces at once and we're going to repeat it on the other side. We fold this out and this comes down. So you see how we have an ear, an ear, and a face, so the face flattens out. Oh, he's so cute. And we fold this tail in so that he can stand up. So if you make a steeper angle, you'll get a fox that has bigger ears, and then those dainty little front paws.

Day 4 - Pigeon

- This pigeon is much easier than it looks and it's really fun to play around with wing placement. You can also add a little bit of personality using colored pencil. Begin with the white side up and fold, point to point. And keeping this folded, we're going to fold point to point again and crease and unfold. Now we're going to fold at about a third of the way up and make sure these center lines are meeting up. We'll turn it over and fold just one piece down. We're going to leave about a quarter of the top peaking up right here, and we will rotate and close, folding it in half. Now we'll make the wings. We'll fold right about here and we'll tilt it on an angle so we're not going straight up. We're going back maybe 30 degrees, and you can match it exactly if you'd like, or you can make it a little bit off. Looks more like it's actively flying, I think. And we'll be folding up here to make the face and the beak, fold it to the front, fold it to the back. Open this up and tuck it in. And there we have our pigeon. Once you feel comfortable with the basic folds for your pigeon, try playing around with proportions. You can get different effects based on how big you make the wings. If the wings are a little bit bigger, they might even be able to stand up.

Day 5 - Butterfly

- People who fall in love with origami generally have one structure that really kicked it off for them. And I've encountered a lot of people who point to this exact butterfly as their favorite origami piece. It was designed by Akira Yoshizawa, who is also known as the father of contemporary origami. With the white side up, we're going to fold point to point, increase, unfold, and repeat, unfold and flip to the color side up where we'll do edge to edge. Open it back up, edge to edge, holding the white side towards you. We're going to bring these three points down to the middle. You should recognize this from the angel fish. We will be folding these points to the center on one side. Flip over, and we're going to bring just this part, so not these two tails up over the edge. We'll

need enough so that we can fold it and it'll stay in place. And don't press down on these folds. That's what gives it this lovely dimensionality is kind of leaving these loose and open. So we'll fold this down, flip it over, and reverse this fold. And there we have a gorgeous butterfly.

Day 6 - Swan

- These swans are really simple to make and they have a nice, strong base so you don't have to fuss with them too much to make them stand up nicely. Begin with the white side up and fold, point to point, unfold, and you'll fold these points into the center. This should be a nice and sharp crease, and sometimes this bottom point can be kind of finicky. Just make sure that as much of this is lined up on the center crease as you can get it. And this should happen fairly naturally. Leave this down while you butt up this side against it and repeat this fold on this side. And if you have to take your time to finesse that point, that's totally fine. Turn it over and we're going to fold these edges into the center edge. Fold this point to meet the top increase here firmly. And this is going to be our beak, so we'll fold it down so it meets right about here. If you fold it much longer, it'll end up looking like a heron. Now we're going to fold this body in half, but before you really crease it, take the neck and straighten it up. So it's going to be folding on the inside here. You'll wanna leave it tilted back a little bit and crease. You might have to redo the beak a little bit. Just give it another crease and make sure it's pointing forward.

Day 7 - Bat

- These bats are great to make in bunches and make for great Halloween decor. Begin with the color side up folding in half, straight sides together, open, rotate and repeat. Flip to the white side up and you'll fold points together. Open, rotate, and repeat. And we've done this before. We're bringing these three points to meet at the bottom. Now we're going to bring the point down to the bottom and with one layer bring these points to the top, and now we'll fold them to the back. Flip it around and fold these up. These will become our little bat ears. You can angle them out if you'd like. And now we're going to make a little crease in the middle to give it a bit more dimension. So we'll fold it in half, make sure your ears are on the backside. We'll fold it in half, and we're just going to make the tiniest crease. Think about like when you're making a paper airplane and you pinch it in the middle. I like to do one side and then the other side, and that's it.

Day 8 - Frog

- The jumping frog can be kind of tricky, but he's absolutely worth the effort. Definitely start with a larger piece of paper because the smaller you go, the more difficult it will be to make the intricate folds. Start with the white side up and fold in half and keeping this crease, fold top to bottom, fold this edge to the middle, leaving this bottom one uncreased and unfold. Now we'll be folding this corner to this intersection right here. Give that a good crease. And this corner is going to this intersection. We're going to bring these two sides in and down. This probably feels a little familiar. We just have this extra piece attached. Bring the bottom portion up to meet this part right here. And crease. This part's kind of tricky. We're gonna take it really slowly. We're not going to be creasing this part. We are going to be creasing what is under it. So we're bringing this side in and creasing, lifting up this top flap and bringing this side in, or touching in the middle. Nice sharp crease and down. Now we're bringing this edge to meet this edge. So this is the part where it gets kind of chunky. You just have to trust the process and keep working. This is why it's necessary to have a really thin paper, because we're coming up on a lot of folds here. Fold these sides down. This

part is a little tricky too. We're going to unfold this slightly and these inside folds will be reversed and pulled out. So you see that. And then down. So we have our head and our feet. We're gonna be forming the feet a little bit more directionally, start poking them out to the side, poking them out to the side. We're bringing them up to the front, and we could just leave it a cute little frog. But if we wanted to make him a jumping frog, which we definitely do, because this part is extremely fun, we will fold him half in the center, pinch it close to the edge. At this point, it doesn't even feel like folding. It feels like mashing, but we're gonna push through as well we can. And push this back. And then he becomes a little jumping frog. So cute. The thickness of your paper and the size of your paper really determines how bunched up your frog is. If you do an even tinier, it could jump higher.

Day 9 - Cobra

- This king cobra structure is pretty simple. It's very structural and forgiving and it's not at all scary. Begin with the white side up and fold, point to point, unfold, and then you'll fold these edges to match the center. We're going to bring these folded edges into the center as well. And just be patient with this bottom here. And if anything gets bunched up, just make sure it's nice and smooth and you're going to fold that in one more time. So already it's looking like a snake. I will fold the entire thing together. A lot of layers here. Just do your best. We're gonna be making a little fold, about 20% from the large end. This will end up making our cobra hood, so fold to one side, fold to the other side, and then reverse this fold. We are going to make a fold right here, starting from these points, fold to the front, fold to the back, and reverse so that the color is on the top. So we're popping that point back. And then we have one more tiny fold at the very tip, fold forward and backward. And then reverse that fold. This is making the end of the snake's nose. Oh, he's so good. Now we're going to squiggle the tail. This is when it becomes much less precise and we're more molding it so you can make a sharp crease. It's not gonna be particularly sharp because you have so many layers. Or you can roll it around your finger. It's so fun. Look how fun the guy is. And for the final step, we'll be pulling out his neck just a little bit more. From here to here, we're gonna fold that back and repeat on the other side. And this structure was designed by John Montroll, who has a series of excellent origami books that are definitely worth looking into.

Day 10 - Whale

- We are bringing out the big pieces of paper for our blue whale. This one's about 10 inches. Begin with your white side up folding point to point. Open it up and repeat with the other corners. Open it back up. We're going to fold this edge to meet the center and we're going to repeat on this side. Now we're going to bring this edge down to meet our center, making our fins, so keep this partially folded and pop out just like that. I'm gonna repeat on the other side, Flip it over and fold it in this point. Meeting the center. Oh, he's so cute. We're going to round out the back a little bit by folding this first towards us and matching it on the other side, and then reversing those folds and tucking them in. If you want, you can flip these forward or leave them back. Maybe we'll do one forward just to see and then to make our tail, we'll flip this end up maybe at a slight angle. See, I missed that fin there. Repeat that. If you want your whale to be able to balance upright on the table too, you can fold your fins at a 90 degree angle. And then even though scissors are a little bit blasphemous in origami, we're going to make a tiny cut here so that we can have the full splay of the tail. So we have our tail folded up, our tail folded down, and we'll cut just to this point, right down that center crease. He looks like he's having a whale of a time.

Day 11 - Cicada

- You don't even have to wait for the next cicada season. You can just make them yourself. Begin with your white side up and fold, point to point. Fold the corners to the top. You are going to fold them down, not directly across, just at a slight angle, but make sure the point extends all the way to the edge. Repeat on the opposite side. You'll fold one layer down, maybe two thirds of the way down, and you'll fold the next layer down just so that there's a little white stripe. Fold in half with this on the outside and this on the inside. Flip it over and fold these edges into meet the center fold. And so they lay flatter on the table, I like to tuck these in. So fold this edge along the crease. I'm doing a bit of a rolling motion and repeat on the other side. So this edge goes into the crease. Doesn't really matter, but makes it lie a little flatter.

Day 12 - Owl

- This is my new favorite origami. It's a little owl and he is kind of grumpy, and making him frown is my favorite part. Begin with your color side up, fold point to point, crease, unfold, and fold point to point again, unfold. And with the white side up, we're going to fold sides to sides, unfold. We are going to fold these three points to the bottom point and crease. Fold these open edges into the center point and fold this top edge. Creasing it right where this meets. Flip it to the other side and repeat that fold. Repeat, folding the edges to the center on the other side. And we're going to unfold and lift this bottom portion. Fold along this crease all the way up. And these edges will all end up along the center crease. If you've never done this before, it can be a little clunky. Just take your time, repeat on the other side. Recrease this if you think it'll help. Now we're going to fold this back down and we're going to make these edges line up with here. So that's the center of the paper. These are the open folds. Repeat on the other side. And this is when we make the owl wings. And this motion is a little bit tricky. We're doing a bit of rolling as we fold. What we want to end up with is this center crease lining up with this line right here. So we're going to put two fingers in here. Keep this top fold closed, and roll the back and flatten. We're gonna repeat that on this side. So pull the top gently but firmly. Pull the wing from the inside and roll so that the center crease lines up with this fold right here. Now our owl is really taking shape. Fold the beak down. And this is where it gets really cute. You're going to pinch the top bit and fold it over. And that'll give it that owl stare. Those eyebrows I was talking about. Look at that. So much personality in one little fold. And then to finish him up, we'll tuck up the bottom of both the front and the back. Who is cooler than this guy?

Day 13 - Chicken

- It is impossible to make this chicken and not crack a smile. There's one tricky fold, but the rest of it is super easy. Begin with the white side up and fold point to point, and crease. Fold these points into the top and crease, turn it over and fold in half. We will bring this flap down and when we do that, we'll squash open a little triangle here. So this edge comes down to here. This will be forming our wing. And this part can be a little bit cumbersome. Just make sure that it matches here. And flatten, flip over and repeat on the other side. So we're taking both pieces. Folding it down on the second side, I find it easiest to line up the ends of the wings. So make sure the fold is at the top. The open portion is at the bottom, and you might have to get your finger in there to pop out the triangle. Sometimes the paper is just not cooperating. Just be patient with yourself. And when you press down the fold, make sure it lines up with the previous one. So now we have the top of our chicken, the bottom of our chicken and the chicken wings. I like to hold that head before I fold the feet just to be sure that it can balance on its feet. Fold the beak forward, fold it backward and reverse that

fold. So open it up and push down, and then you'll be folding the feet forward. We'll want the bottoms of the feet to be flat, you might have to lift up the wing a little bit, hold it forward, fold it backwards, and reverse the fold. If you've spent any time with chickens, you know that they're in this posture when they're at their most indignant. I love imagining just a flock of angry chickens.

Day 14 - Turtle

- With so many of these projects, there's one fold that really makes the piece, and this turtle is no exception. When we shape the shell, we do one little crease that really makes it pop. Begin with the color side up and fold, edge to edge. Open it up, fold these corners into the center, flip it over, and we'll fold this crease into the center line. Opening up this flap in the back. Bring this bottom edge up to meet the center fold. Ignoring this little flap here. So we're lining up the center fold with the edge of our paper, repeat on the other side, meeting in the middle, and then we're folding them back down. You're going to want to keep this in a straight line. We're lining up to make a little triangle and we're just peeking this solid portion over the edge. So this is going to make a foot. If you check it out on the back, you should have the entire triangle showing and not anymore. Repeat that on the other edge. And we'll bring this top point down to meet in the middle and fold it back up. This is going to be our turtle's head. And crease firmly. This next fold will shape the neck and it's a little bit tricky. Just be patient. We're going to bring this edge up to meet the top fold, and this will flatten out. So this is our turtle's neck. If this doesn't meet precisely, that's all right. Just do your best and repeat on the other side. Ideally, these two sides of the neck are symmetrical, so spend some time finessing with if you have to. He's kind of askew. Gonna readjust him and flatten on the back. So we're not going to see the back. And this is the magical part. So ignoring the feet, we're going to pinch in the center and push this crease to one side. So ideally the center apex point would be at the center and we're going to bring it over to make a little rounded shell. And then we fold flat down at the bottom of the feet. We're not just folding over this tail part, we're folding between the two feet to create a rounded bottom of the shell. And then we can fold this little point back to make a little tail peeking out. Ugh, it's so cute. And then to round out our shell, we're gonna fold in these points and repeat on the other side. Just to round it out. I used a solid color here, but because of this shell, I think this structure will be really interesting to try out in a patterned paper.

Day 15 - Crane

- I love making paper cranes. This is actually the structure that got me into origami. I remember the exact feeling of watching this two dimensional piece of paper suddenly have three dimensional life. My dad taught it to me and I'm really excited to teach it to you. Begin with the color side up and fold point to point. Unfold, repeat with the other points. Unfold and flip it over. Then fold edges together, and then edges together. We will be bringing these three points down to the center. Folding these edges into the center and creasing. And we will fold this edge up against this portion. I caught this a little bit, so I'm gonna refold it, just taking care to not do that. Unfold it and flip it and repeat those folds on the other side. Going to fold it from the other side to be sure that we're being as precise as possible. Now with these unfolded, we'll bring the tip up, folding along this crease we made and bringing these edges into the center right, these edges into the center. I find it easier, instead of doing one half at a time, I do the bottom in case I need to finesse the points a little bit. Can recrease that and repeat on the second side. We have our open portion and the closed portion. These are going to become the wings and these will become the head and tail. We'll now fold these into the center taking care to crease really well, especially at the points. Flip over and repeat on the

other side. Repeat it on this side. Once you get down to these teeny tiny points, you might wanna fold in the opposite direction. Just do your best. And now we'll fold these at about a 45 degree angle to the front and to the back. Repeat on this side, front and to the back. We will reverse these folds. I love this moment. And crease down. And I find it, because I'm right-handed, I find it easier to do the pinching in my right hand. So instead of redoing it on this side, I'm gonna flip it over and do it again on this side. And then I usually pick my pointiest sides. Often one side is a little flatter than the other. I pick the pointiest side to be the tail and the duller side to be the head. We crease it at the top, fold it down and back, and we invert just that fold to make the head and we fold down the wings. Some people like to fold the wings down and crease them. Others like to give them more of a gentle curve. Do whatever works best for you, just beautiful. Out of all these structures, I hope that there's at least one that really sparks your imagination and that you want to make again and again. The world of origami is so expansive that it's wonderful to explore and to try new things. But I also encourage you to go out and show someone how to make your favorite piece.