



# Project Try-It Activity

## Illinois 4-H Youth Development Program

### Visual Arts: Paper

#### FOLD AN ORIGAMI LOTUS BLOSSOM

Fold an origami lotus using a square sheet of paper, then use your paper bloom for display or decoration.

Activity Time: 5 minutes | Recommended Ages: 8 to 18

#### SUPPLY LIST

- 1 square sheet of paper any size (preferably origami paper, but recycled magazines, standard weight computer paper, or any other paper that holds a crease will work if cut into a square)

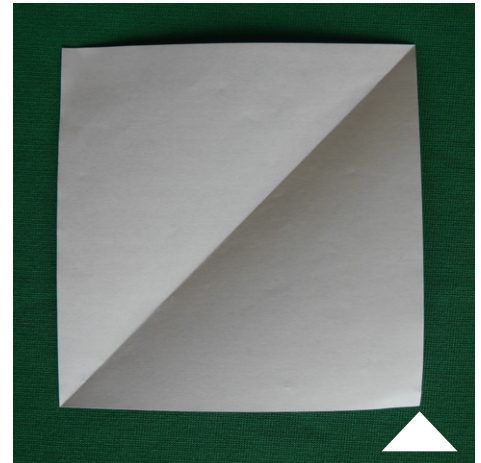
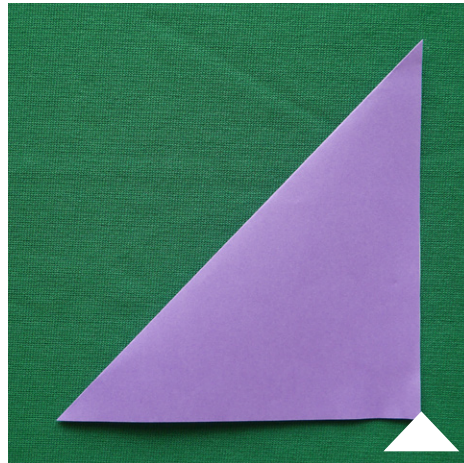
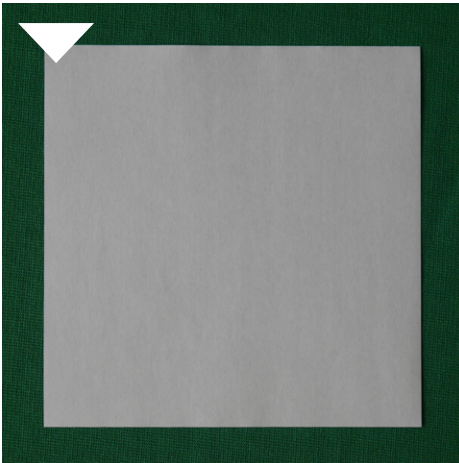
#### WATCH IT!

View a video tutorial of this activity by using the qr code (right) or visiting:  
[https://youtu.be/Mkq3\\_hQS\\_Q](https://youtu.be/Mkq3_hQS_Q)



#### ACTIVITY DIRECTIONS

1. Start by placing your square paper flat on the table. If your paper is colored on one side, place the colored side face down (below left).



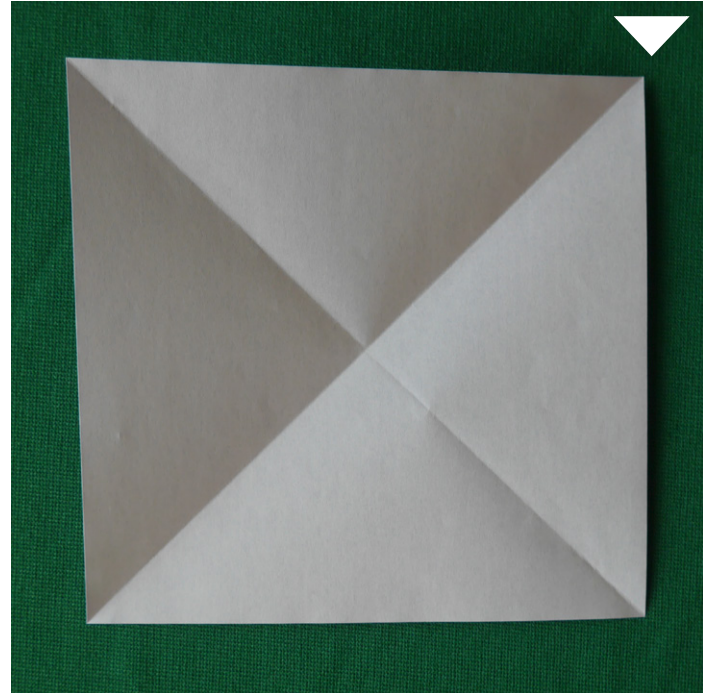
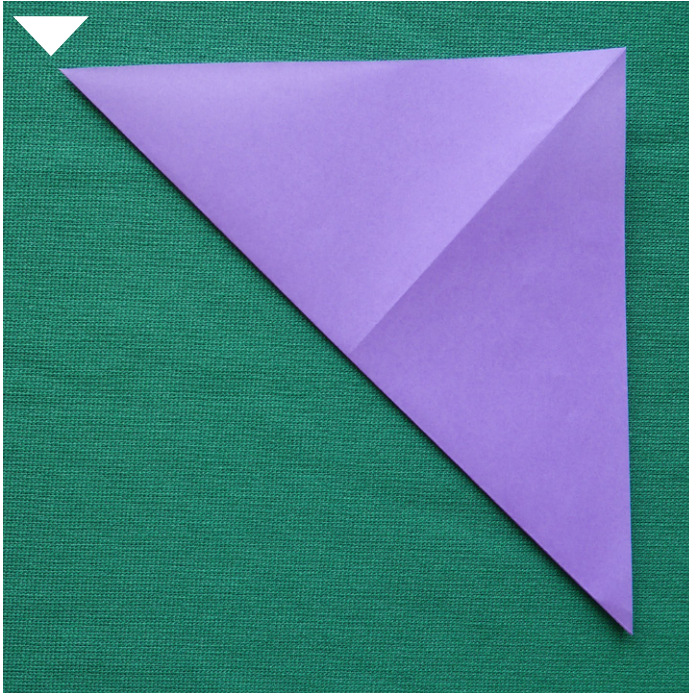
2. Fold the paper into a triangle, by folding the top left corner down to the bottom right corner (above center). Crease the fold well, then unfold back into a square (above right).



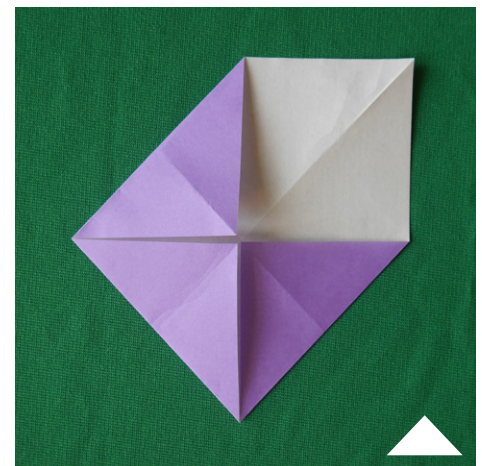
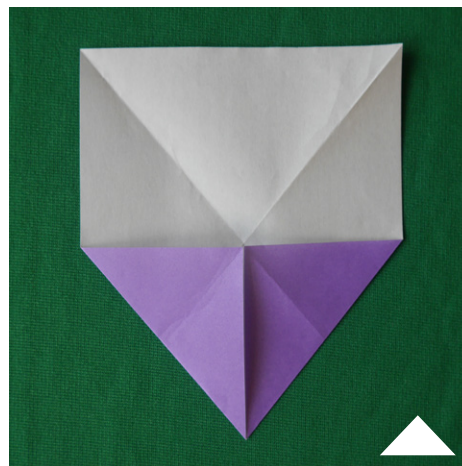
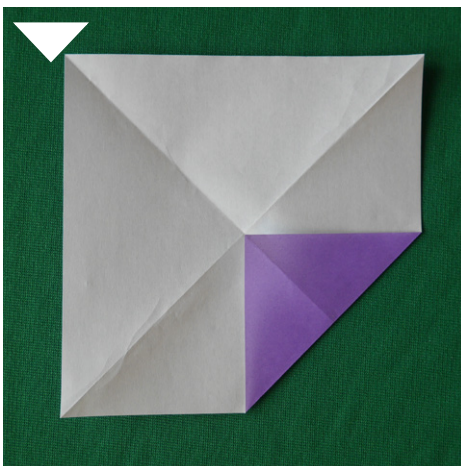


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3. Fold the paper into a triangle in the opposite direction, by folding the bottom left corner up to the top right corner (below left). Crease well, then unfold. The unfolded paper should have an “x” pattern visible because of the creases (below right).



4. Starting with the bottom right corner, fold the corner up and in to meet the center (where the two bars of the “x” meet). The diagonal creases from both layers of paper should line up (below left).



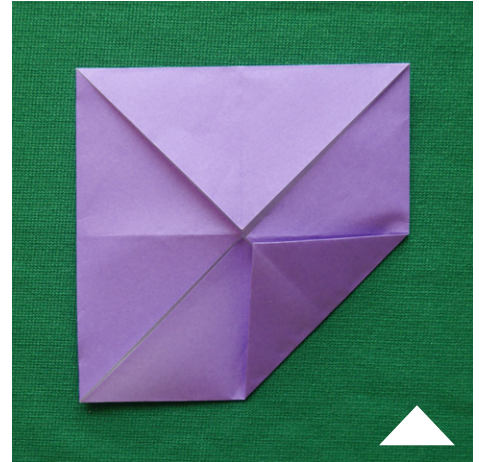
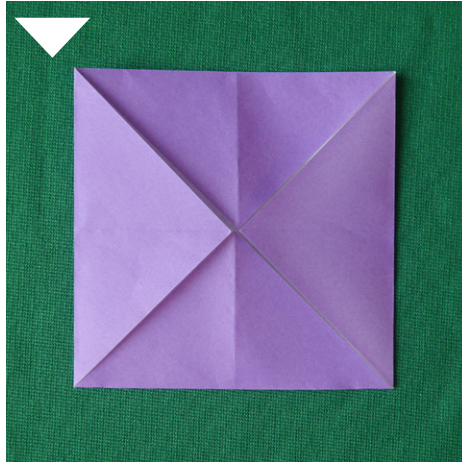
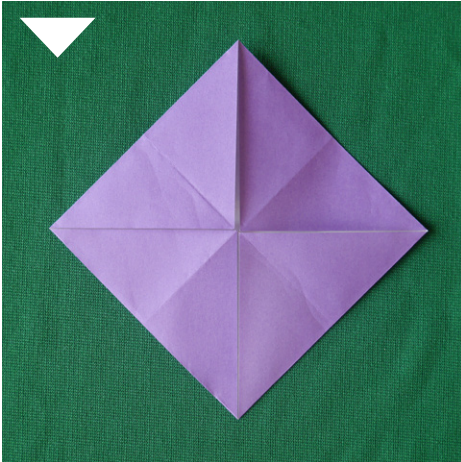
5. Next, fold the bottom left corner into the center, like in the previous step (above center).
6. Fold the top left corner into the center as well (above right).



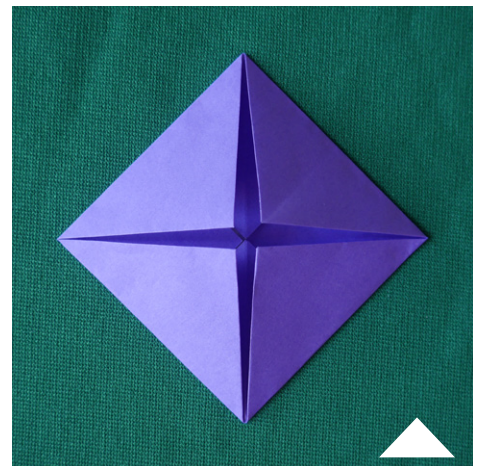
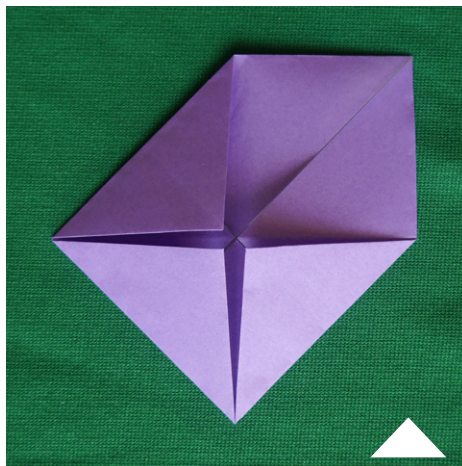
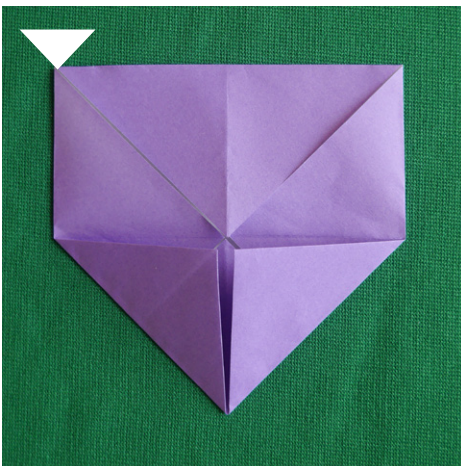


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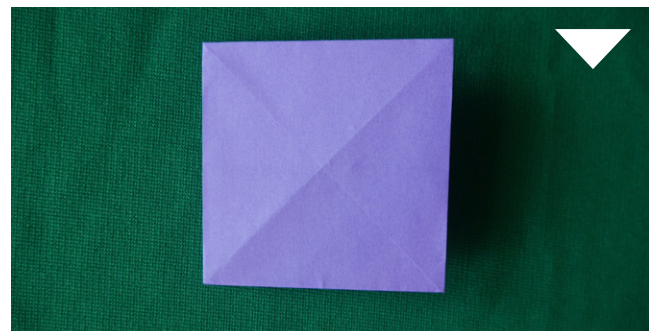
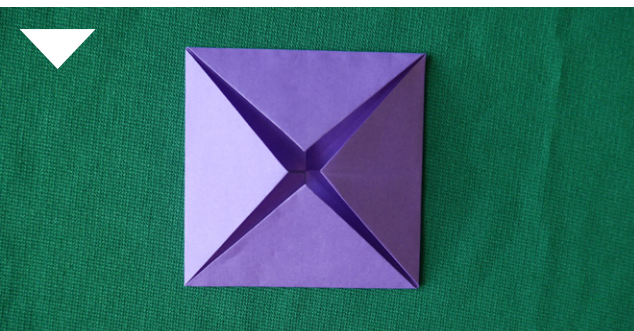
7. Then fold the last corner into the center (below left). Next, turn your paper slightly (45 degrees), leaving you with a square shape (below center). In origami folding, this is called a blintz base or cushion fold. A number of origami projects will start with this series of folds.



8. Next we're going to repeat the previous series of 4 folds. Starting with the bottom right corner, fold the corner up and in to meet the center (above right).  
9. Then fold the bottom left corner in to the center (below left).



10. Follow that with the top left (above center) and top right corners (above right).  
11. Turn your paper 45 degrees so you are looking at a square (below left). Then, flip the paper over (below right).

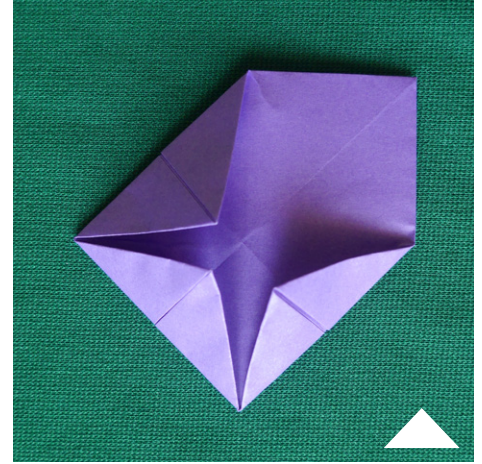
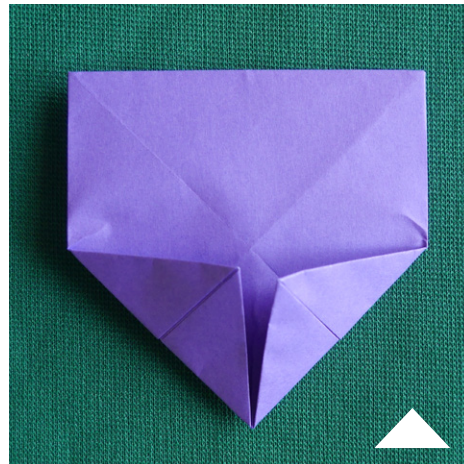
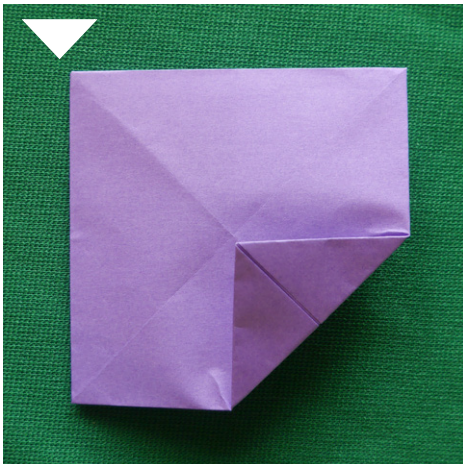




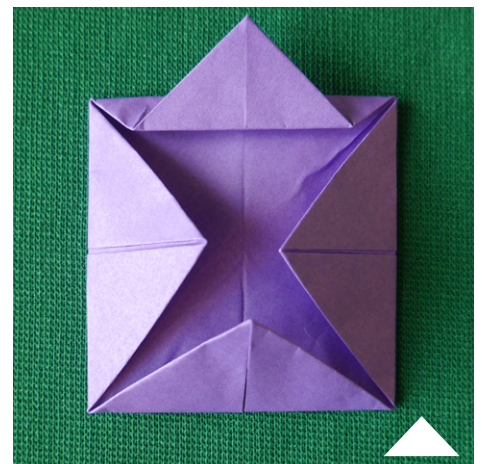
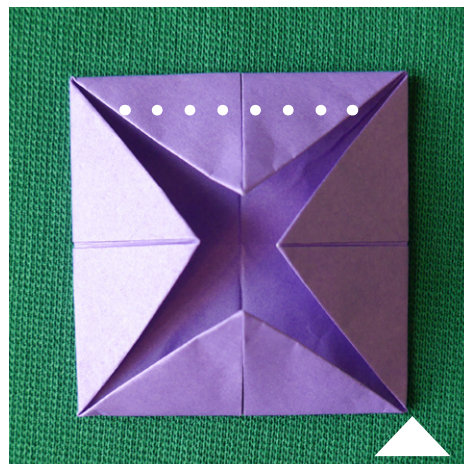
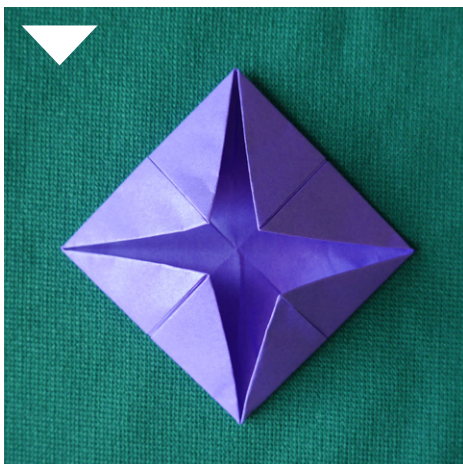


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12. Again fold the bottom right corner up and in to meet the center of the paper (below left).



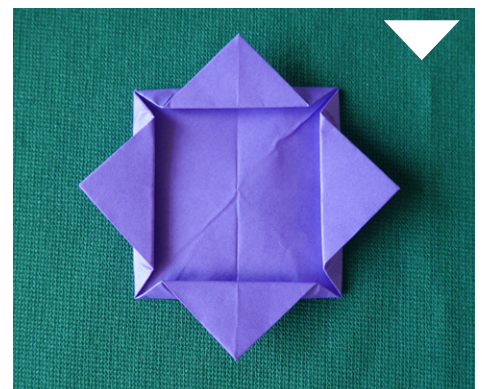
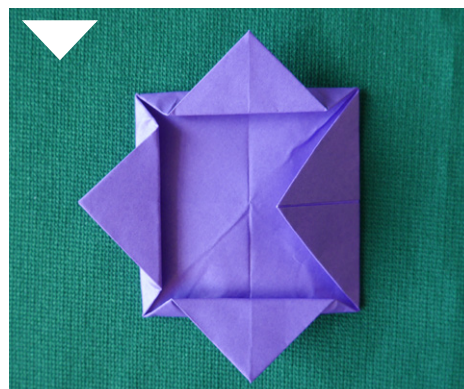
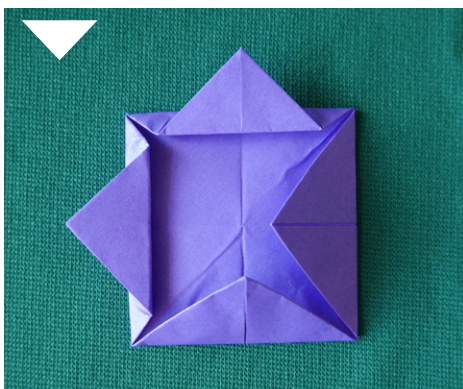
13. Repeat steps 9-10, folding the remaining corners of this side of the paper up and to the center (above center, above right and below left).



14. Rotate your shape 45 degrees to a square orientation (above center).

15. Fold the top flap up as indicated by the dotted line (above center). The finished fold should look like the image above right.

16. Repeat step 15 on the 3 remaining flaps/sides (below left, center and right).

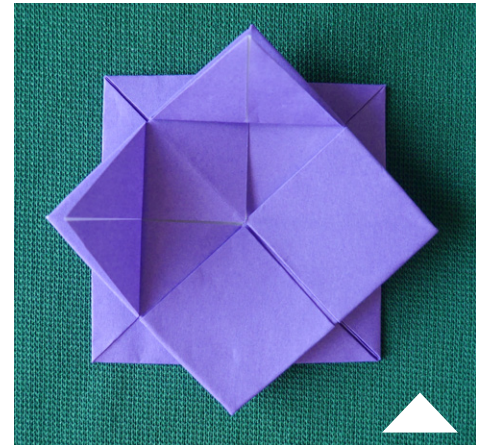
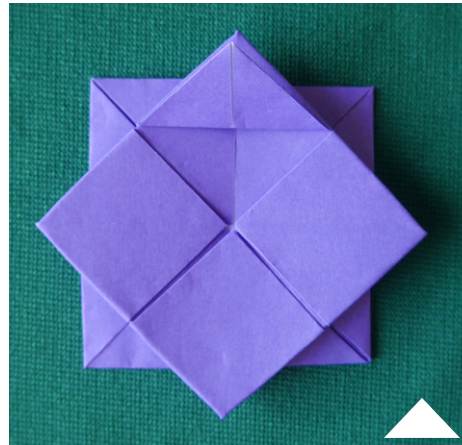
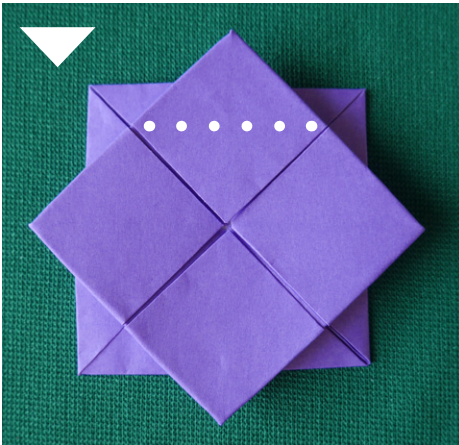






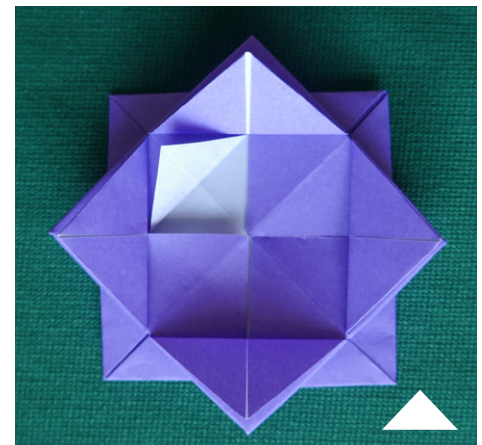
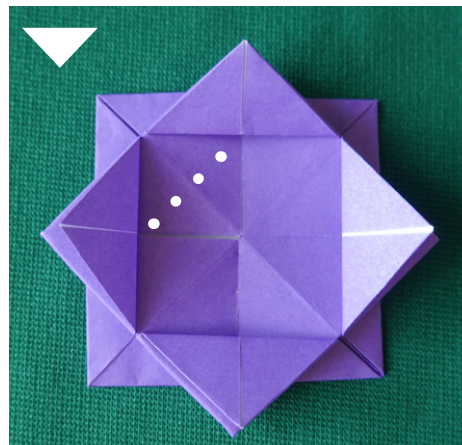
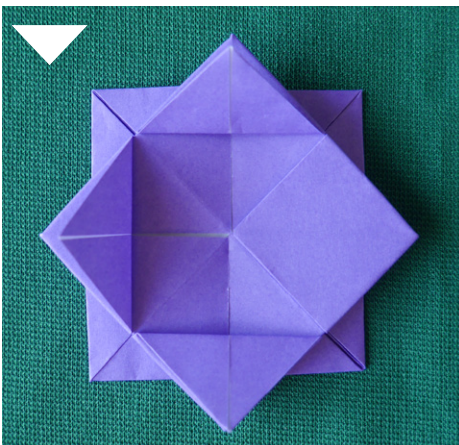
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17. Flip the paper over (below left).

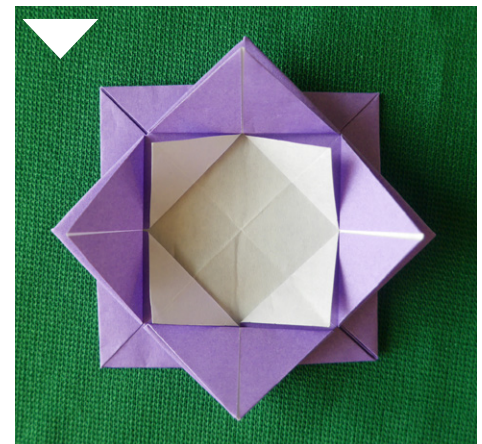
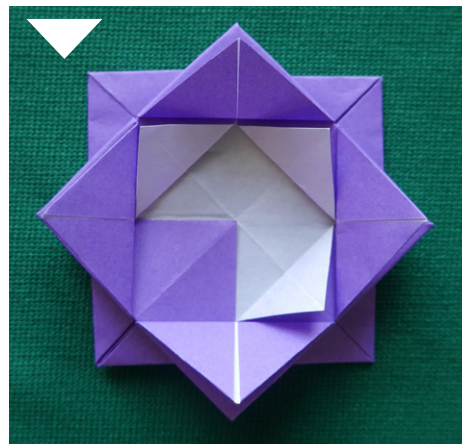
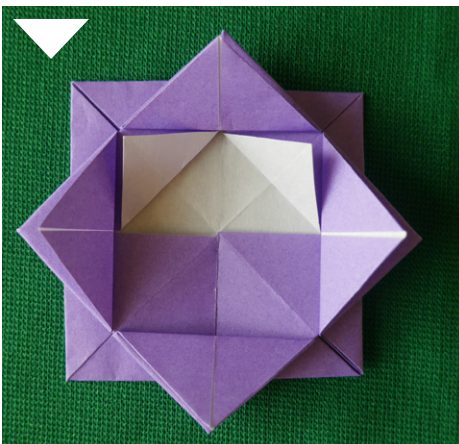


18. Next fold the outer layer of paper on the dotted line (marked in above left image) up and out to the top corner (above center).

19. Repeat this process with the other 3 sides (above right, below left and center).



20. Now we'll open up the middle of the flower. Lift up each of the 4 center flaps and fold them up and out (above right, below left, center and right), as indicated by the dotted line (above center).

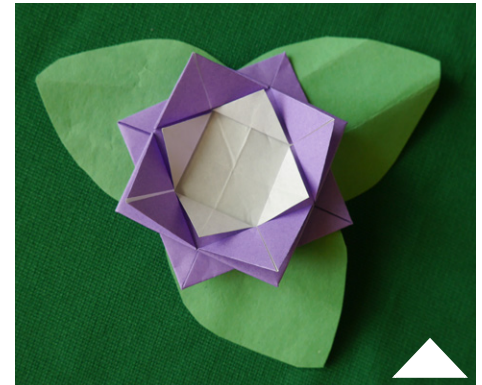
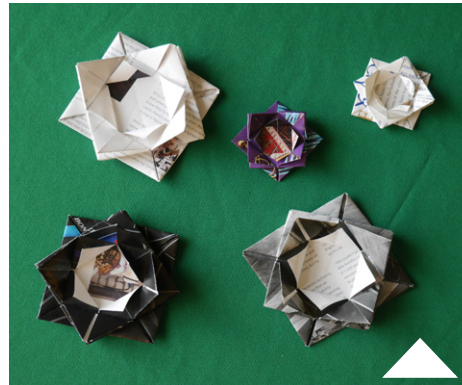
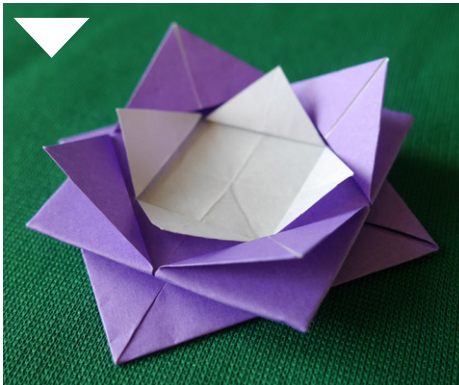






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21. Enjoy your finished lotus blossom (below left)!

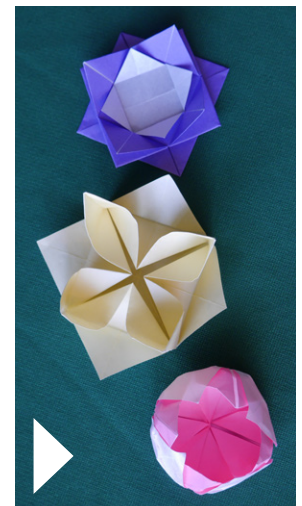


## APPLY IT

Origami is the art of paper folding. The word itself comes from the Japanese words “ori” meaning “folding” and “kami” meaning “paper”. The lotus blossom is a beginner origami project. Origami models and techniques can get much more complex.

Now that you’ve gotten started with origami, what can you do with your knowledge and creation?

- The lotus blossom origami object makes a great bow! Make one the next time you’re giving a gift.
- Fold different size pieces of paper into the lotus blossom shape and then put them together to make a collage piece of art (above center).
- “Plus up” your lotus by adding leaves or other features with additional sheets of paper to make it unique (above right). Or use markers, crayons or colored pencils to add depth or interest to your work.
- Dive further into the world of origami by following instructions to fold more complicated lotuses (right) or other interesting objects and creatures. Once you get more experience with the various types of folds, try creating your own original origami design!



## PROJECT CONNECTION

Did you have fun making this origami lotus blossom? If you like to get creative with paper, Visual Arts: Paper is the project for you. In this project you can make origami, greeting cards, paper-cut designs, paper mache, hand-made paper, paper collages, paper models, quilling art, and more.

## REFERENCES

- Origami instructions (Origami-Instructions.com) at <http://www.origami-instructions.com>
- Origami (Wikipedia) at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Origami>

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