

Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes  
Eleanor Coerr

Introductory Activity – Making Origami Cranes

**Materials Needed:**

- Square paper for each student (preferably sizeable enough for each student to fold comfortably)
- string (or other material to hang paper cranes)
- Internet access with a computer, iPad, etc.

**TEKS:**

**7.12A** - Follow multi-dimensional instructions from text to complete a task, solve a problem, or perform procedures.

**Objectives:**

Students will follow a procedural text from a common website to complete the task of making a paper crane.

Students share the positive aspects of making the cranes as well as the challenges they faced, and they will consider both the positive and negative consequences of making 1,000 paper cranes.

**Vocabulary to know:**

**Crane** – a type of bird

**Origami** – the art of folding paper

**Crease** – a line marked on a piece of paper after folding it

**Horizontal** – side-to-side lines

**Vertical** – up and down lines

**Perpendicular** – two intersecting lines where one is one and up and down and the other is side to side

**Hook:**

- Allow students the opportunity to share their experiences doing crafts and folding paper.
- See if any students are aware of the word *origami* and can share their experience.
- Ask students what reasons someone might make origami and allow them to share.
- Have students look at the title of Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes and allow them to make inferences as to why the book might be titled how it is.

Consider the following questions:

- Do you think a character might make 1,000 paper cranes?
- Why would people make so many cranes?

**Introduction:**

-Using whatever technology works in your classroom, allow students as a class, or as individuals to access the internet and go to the website:

<http://www.wikihow.com/Fold-a-Paper-Crane>

Before starting, review with a large piece of paper, the following vocabulary. Make sure to model folds and lines in folds, so students may have a clear understanding:

- crease
- horizontal fold
- vertical fold
- perpendicular fold

**Activity:**

Using their technology, allow the students to make their own cranes and hang them up in the classroom.

Support students as needed. (Depending on the class being taught and the technology available, this could be a whole group activity, small group activity, or done individually).

Once students are completed with the making of their cranes, invite the whole group to have a class discussion of what they enjoyed and found challenging about making the cranes. Some questions to consider:

- What was exciting about making a paper crane?
- How did you feel after the accomplishment of making a crane?
- What would it look like to have 1,000 cranes decorating a space?
- What was challenging about making a crane?
- How would the experience be different if you knew that 1,000 paper cranes needed to be made?
- What might make the crane-making process quicker or slower?

**Extension Activities:**

- Allow students to look up the history of paper cranes and create a visual presentation (powerpoint, poster, etc.) of the purpose of cranes.
- Have students create their own procedural text video for how to make the paper cranes with an explanation in American Sign Language.

Website:

*How To Fold A Paper Crane*. Wikihow to do anything..., 2016,

<http://www.wikihow.com/Fold-a-Paper-Crane>. Accessed September 2016.