

Fun with Frogs Activity

This week for Learning Together Tuesday, we'll learn all about frogs and how important they are for our environment! Frogs keep our environment healthy, but did you know that frogs are also considered a symbol of luck? For today's activity, we will be making our very own lucky origami frog! Let's get started!



Why are Frogs so Important?

Have you ever wondered if your garden is healthy? Well, if you have frogs nearby, it's a tell-tale sign that it sure is! Frogs have **permeable** skin, meaning water and air are absorbed right through it. Frogs both drink and breathe through their skin! Unfortunately, water and air aren't the only things that can pass through a frog's skin; toxic materials can also easily pass through. Frogs become very sick if they absorb pollutants, so they will not live in polluted areas. All this means means that frogs are an **indicator species**. If frogs live in a certain area, this is an indication that the area is healthy and has clean air and fresh water.

An environment is where living and non-living things are all together in one place (like a forest, or wetland). Frogs are also really important to an environment because they help to ensure that the other animals there stay healthy. Tadpoles (baby frogs) eat algae to keep the water healthy and adult frogs eat lots of insects which can be pests. Frogs are a source of food to many birds and other animals. If frogs are removed from an environment, that environment will change: water sources may start to clog up, there may suddenly be lots more insects, and many animals could die from starvation. This means that frogs are a **keystone** species, a species is an animal that is very important or vital to a particular environment. not very hard to see why frogs are considered lucky in so many cultures... there are so many positive things about them!



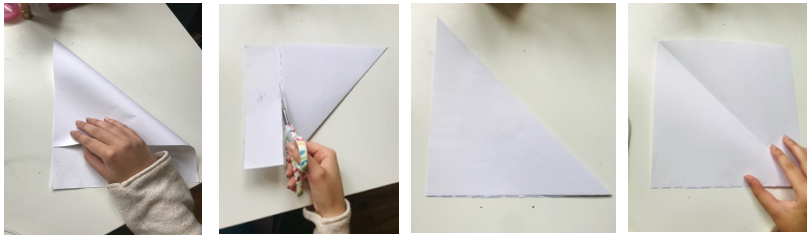
Activity: Origami Frog

Materials:

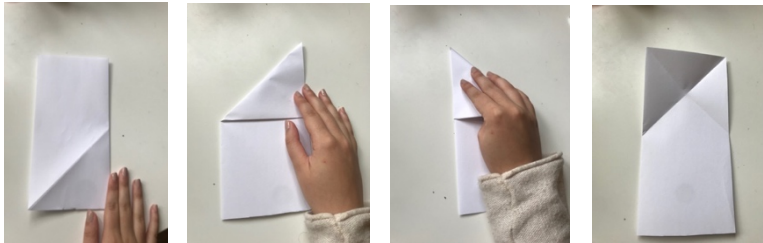
- ✿ A sheet of printer paper (it will be cut into a square) or a sheet of origami paper
- ✿ Scissors
- ✿ Markers or crayons (if you want to colour your frog)

Method:

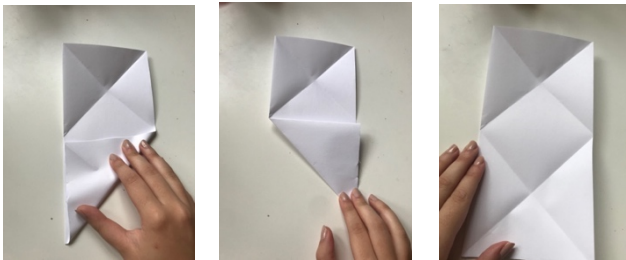
1. Take your sheet of paper and fold it so that the one corner meets the opposite side forming a triangle. Cut off anything that is not part of your triangle (for us, it was the rectangle at the bottom). After you cut off any extra parts, open the triangle and you should have a square piece of paper!



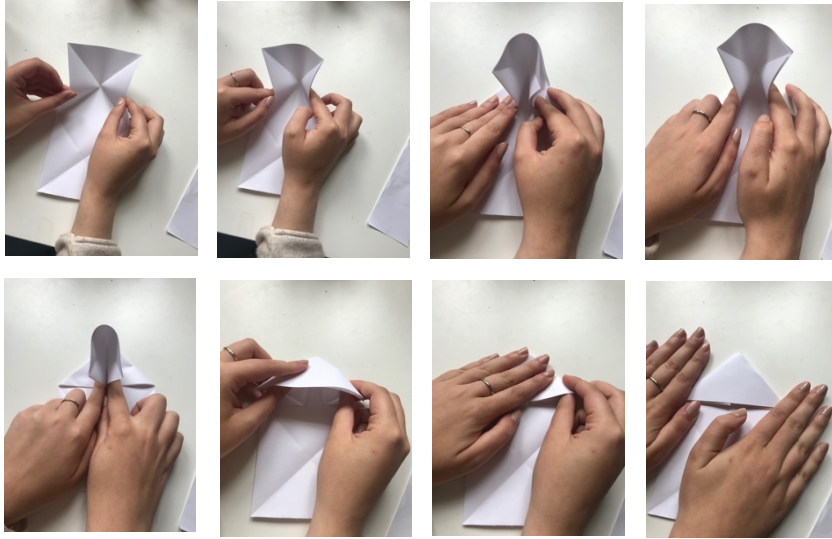
2. Fold your square in half lengthwise. Then fold a corner on the top down to the other side to make a little triangle like in step one. Unfold the triangle you made on the top and make a triangle using the other top corner. Open that triangle and you should have an X shape on the top of your rectangle.



3. Do the exact same thing at the bottom of your rectangle. You should now have two X folds at the top and bottom of your paper.



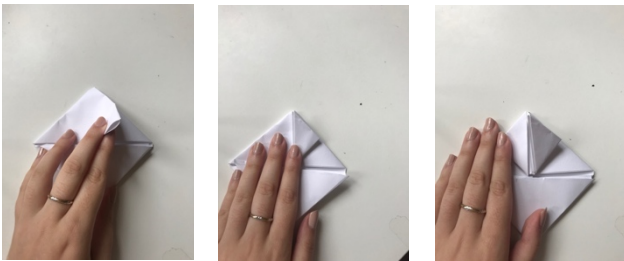
4. This is the hardest part of making your frog so make sure you look at the pictures carefully. To do this step you need to push on the sides of your X in **towards the center and down** very lightly so that the top pops up. When the top pops up you'll want to push it down and it should form a triangle.



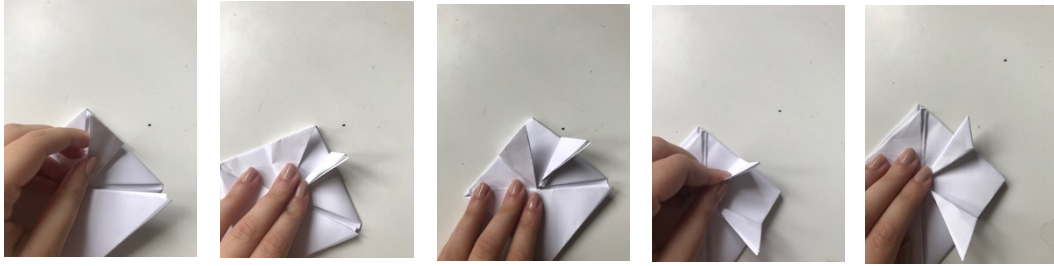
5. Repeat step 4 with the X on the bottom! The end result should be shaped like a square. With two triangles one on the top and one on the bottom.



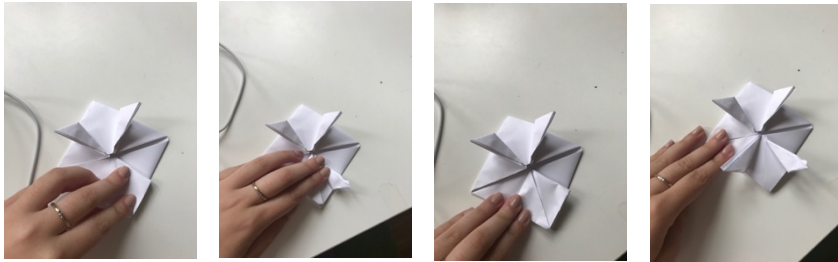
6. Fold the flaps of the top triangle **up** to the tip of the triangle



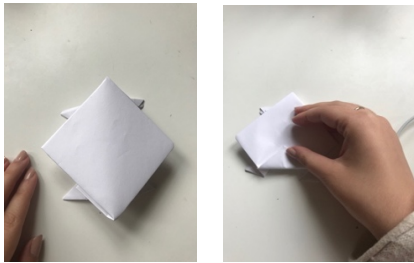
7. Now fold the tops of each of these triangles out to the side



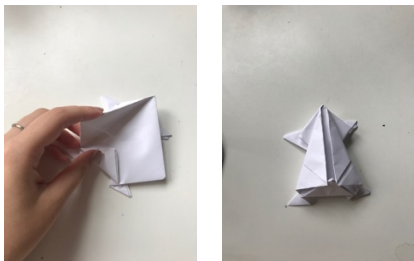
8. Repeat steps 6 and 7 at the bottom



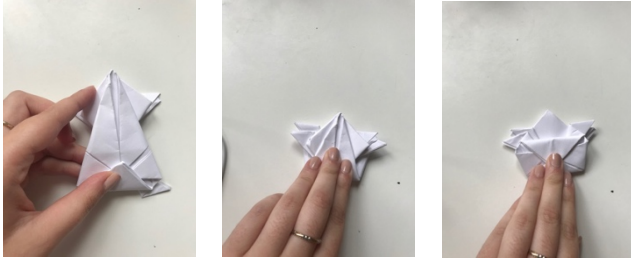
9. Turn your piece of paper over and fold the bottom corner (between the two legs closest together) in towards the center.



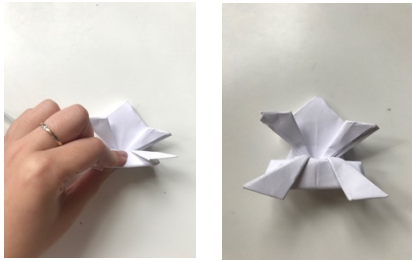
10. Next, fold the left and right side in towards the tip of the bottom triangle.



11. Finally, fold your frog in half. Flip it over and fold the bottom of the frog up to the top.



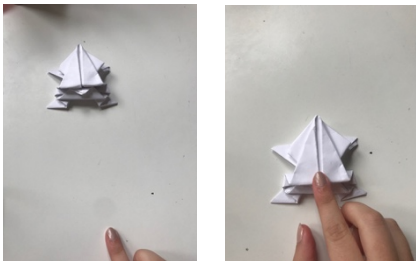
12. The last step is to fold the bottom in half again. So, the part you just folded to the back of the frog, fold it in half towards you.



13. Now turn your frog over and, voilà! You're finished!



14. To make your frog jump push on its back and see how far it'll hop! If you make more than one you can have frog races!



Frogs come in lots of different colours and have lots of different spots and stripes, so you can decorate your origami frog once you're finished!

Fun Frog Facts:

- There are over 4,700 species of frogs!
- Frogs can jump 20x their own height.
- A frog's ear is called tympanum and it is located just behind the eye. If the tympanum is larger than the frog's eye, the frog is male; if it is smaller, the frog is female.
- Frogs have teeth on their upper jaws.
- A frog's eyes and nose are on the top of its head so it can still see and breathe when most of its body is underwater.
- Frogs live on the land and in the water! They keep both parts of an ecosystem in balance, there is no other animal that is so important to both land and water.

We really hope that you enjoyed this week's Learning Together Tuesday! We'd love for you to share your frog with us by [Facebook](#) or [email](#)! Have a great week!