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Origami, a Japanese word meaning to fold ("oru") paper ("kami"), is the art of building sculptures by folding paper. Origami is an art form, The goal of this art is to create a representation of an object using geometric folds and crease patterns preferably without the use of gluing or cutting the paper, and using only one piece of square paper.

ORIGAMI

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The art of origami originated in China as paper folding. During the 6th century, Buddhist monks from China took paper to Japan, beginning the art form, which later became a significant aspect of Japanese ceremony by the Heian period of Japanese history.

NOSHI

Samurai warriors would exchange gifts adorned with noshi, a sort of good luck token made of folded strips of paper. Origami butterflies were used during the celebration of Shinto weddings to represent the bride and groom.

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KIRIKOMI

In the 1960's
the art of
origami
began to
spread out,
first with
modular
origami and
then with
various
movements
developing,
including the
kirikomi
paper
sculptures.
Origami is
now an
international
art.

KAMI

Special origami paper, often also referred to as kami, is sold in prepackaged squares of various sizes ranging from 2.5 cm to 25 cm or more. It is commonly colored on one side and white on the other; however, dual colored and patterned versions exist and can be used effectively for color-changed models. Origami paper weighs slightly less than copy paper, making it suitable for a wider range of models

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WASHI

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Washi is the predominant origami paper used in Japan. Washi is generally tougher than ordinary paper made from wood pulp, and is used in many traditional arts. Washi is commonly made using fibers from the bark of the gampi tree, the mitsumata shrub, or the paper mulberry but also can be made using bamboo, hemp, rice, and wheat.

MONEYGAMI

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Paper money from various countries are also popular to create origami with, called "Moneygami". It is common to create the figure depicted on the note itself.

ACTION ORIGAMI

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Action origami includes origami that flies, requires inflation to complete, or, when complete, utilizes the kinetic energy of your hands, applied at a certain region on the model, to move another flap or limb. Strictly speaking, only the latter is really "recognized" as action origami. Action origami, first appearing with the traditional Japanese flapping bird, is quite common.

MODULAR ORIGAMI

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Modular origami, which has been increasing in popularity for the last twenty years breaks the rules of pure origami by combining several identical pieces to create one spectacular model. It is nearly always the case that creating the units is far less problematic than putting the final model together which often requires much patience and practice.