



Learn By Doing

4-H[®] EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING MODEL



Since 4-H started in the early 1900s, the idea of “learning by doing” has defined the program. This hands-on process allows youth to understand not only how to do something but also why they’re doing it. This model is known as the Experiential Learning

Failure is OK!

One of the biggest challenges (and benefits) of experiential learning is not always being successful immediately. It might be hard to sit back and watch your youth struggle, but it’s a valuable lesson. 4-H is supposed to be a place where you can fail in a safe environment. Learning is a process—change from failure is ok!

Support your youth and encourage them! The first arrow in an archery lesson might miss the target, but you’ll be amazed how your youth progresses after ten, fifty, one hundred more attempts.



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Car Ride Questions

It’s pretty common for 4-H members to share what they learned with their peers and the adults leading a project. The learning doesn’t end when youth leave the activity and head home! Take time with your 4-H member to reflect on their experience. Ask some questions to see what they learned and to help them think critically about the activity they just did. Reflection is an important part of learning by doing, and you as a caregiver can help support the process. Here are some questions you could ask:

- What was the easiest part of the activity? What surprised you?**
- What were some problems that came up over and over? How did you handle them?**
- What was the most challenging part of the activity? Why? How did you solve it?**
- What advice would you give to someone who wants to do this activity?**
- How can you use what you learned?**

Source: Reflection Questions for Experiential Learning Activities, UW-Madison Division of Extension (2015) by Brianna Stapleton Welch

Encourage your youth 4-H member to try the origami activity on the opposite page. Then reflect with some of these questions!

Do you have special skills or knowledge that you would like to share with 4-H youth? Check with your local 4-H educator and ask about signing up as a Project Leader!



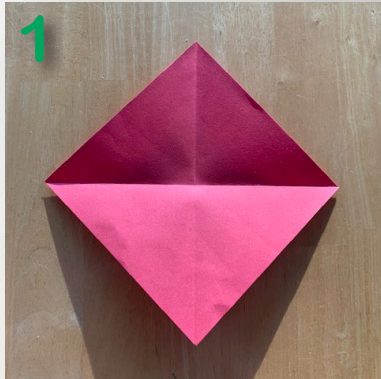
Have a minute? Please provide feedback by filling out this [5-question survey](#)





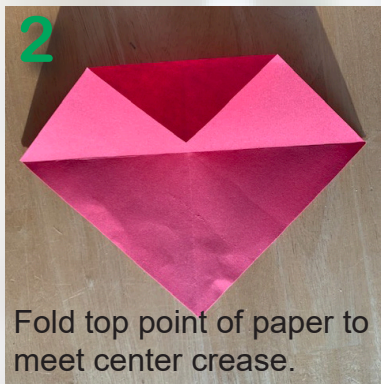
Origami Hearts

Have you ever tried origami before? Origami is the art of paper folding. Try to make a heart out of a square piece of paper by following these steps! If you don't understand a step, ask an adult for help!

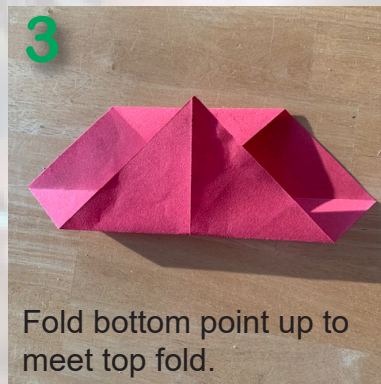


Start with a 6" x 6" square piece of paper. If you're using origami paper, put the side with the color pattern face down on the table.

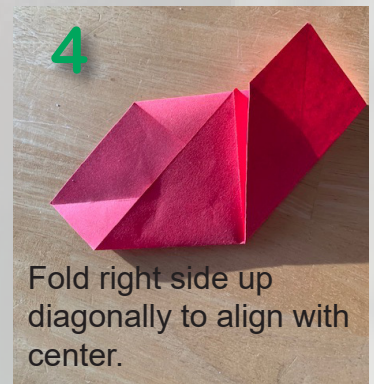
Fold paper in half on the diagonal, bringing top corner to bottom one. Unfold. Fold in half again, bringing right corner to left one. Unfold.



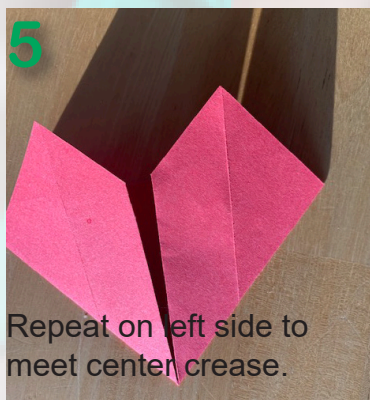
Fold top point of paper to meet center crease.



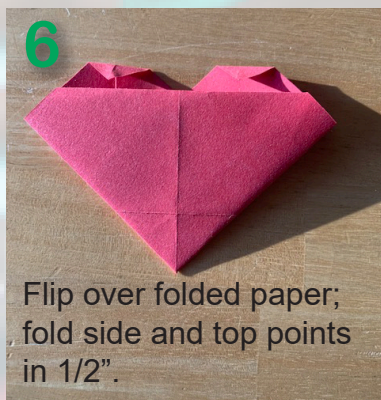
Fold bottom point up to meet top fold.



Fold right side up diagonally to align with center.



Repeat on left side to meet center crease.



Flip over folded paper; fold side and top points in 1/2".



Flip over and insert a slip of paper with a message into pocket of heart.

Instructions used with permission from Amanda Kingloff, ProjectKid.com, "[Origami Heart Valentines](#)." Photos by Heidi Vanderloop Benson.

How did it go?

Did you get it right the first time? If you did, great job! If you didn't, try it again! It's normal to not get an origami fold perfect on the first try. Try to see if you can perfect the skill. After you have this one down, try to create some other new folds!