

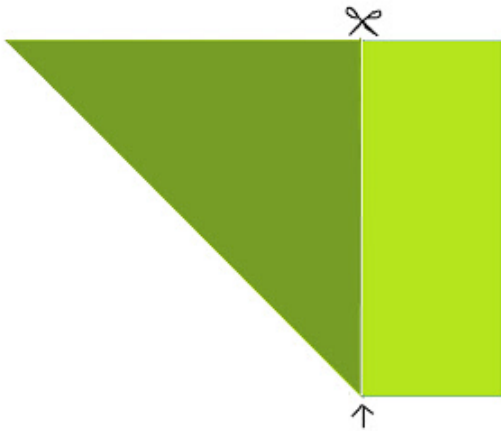
Origami Star Lantern



Obon is an annual Buddhist event commemorating one's ancestors. It is believed that each year during obon, the ancestors' spirits return to this world in order to visit their relatives.

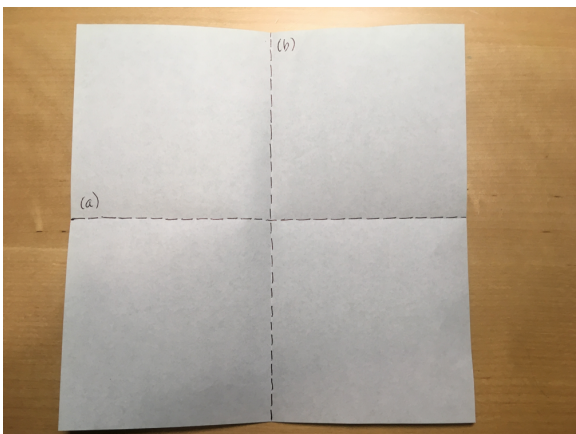
Traditionally, lanterns are hung in front of houses to guide the ancestors' spirits, obon dances (bon odori) are performed, graves are visited and food offerings are made at house altars and temples. At the end of Obon, floating lanterns are put into rivers, lakes and seas in order to guide the spirits back into their world.

(<https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2286.html>)

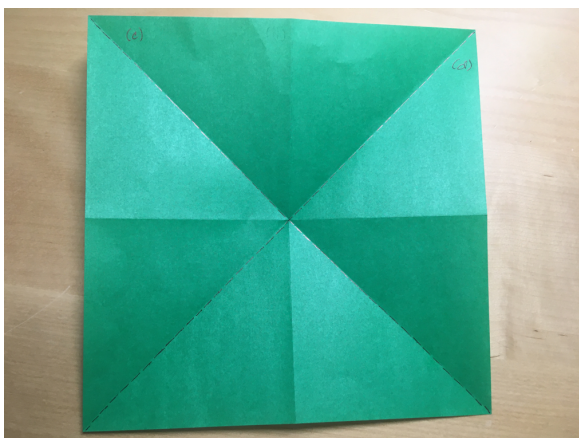


Make a square piece of paper from a letter sized sheet of paper (8.5" x 11") by cutting off the light green portion.

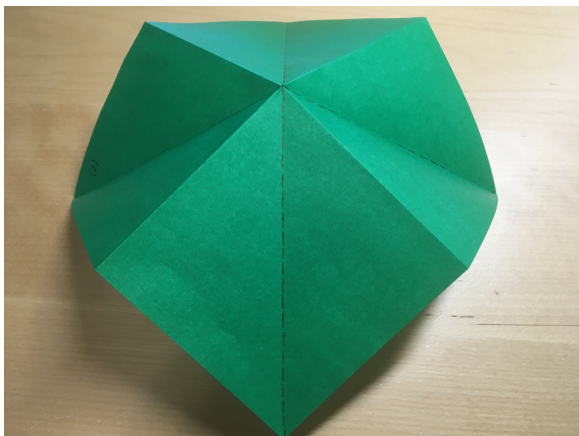
Draw, write, and/or paint on the paper if you want to.



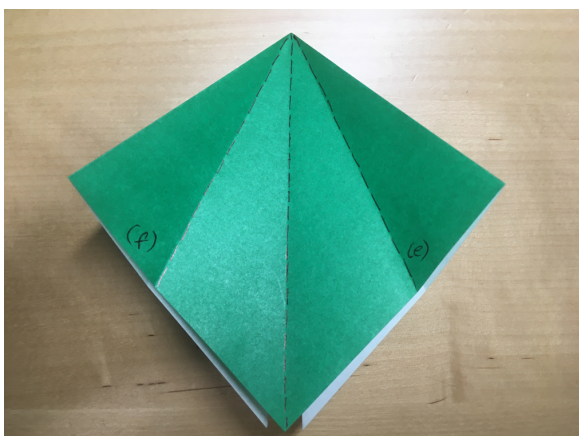
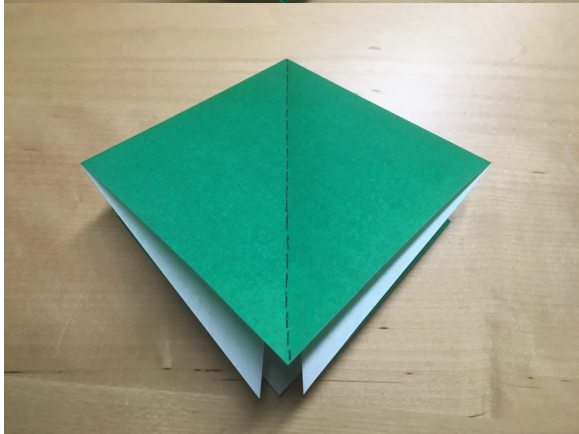
With the white (back or inside) side facing up, line up the top and bottom edges of the paper and valley fold and unfold (a). Repeat with the left and right edges of the paper (b).



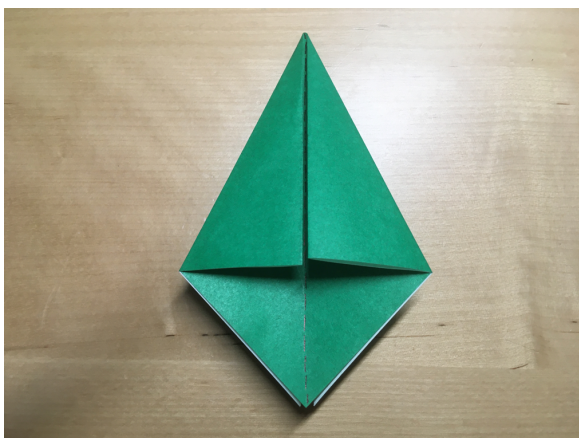
Turn the paper over. With the color (front or outside) side up, line up two opposite corners and make a diagonal valley fold and unfold (c). Repeat with the other two opposite corners (d).



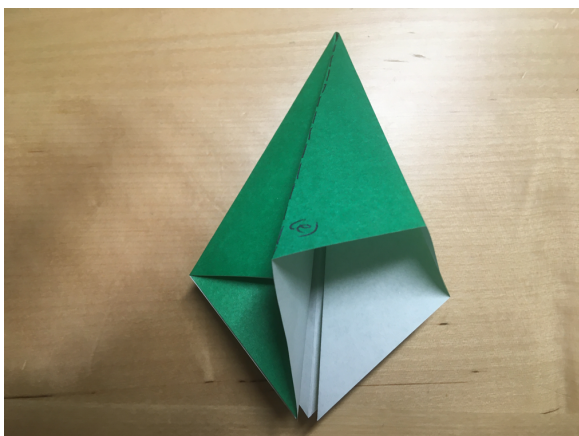
With the color side up, pop the center up with your finger and push in two opposite diagonal valley folds to collapse the paper into the crane base as shown.



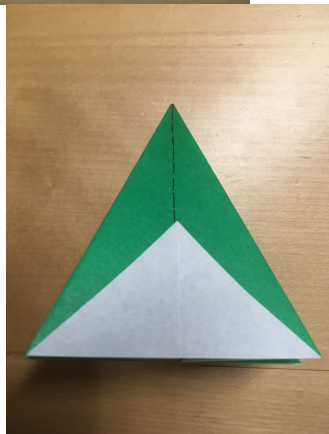
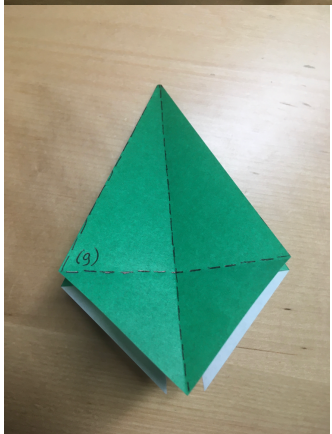
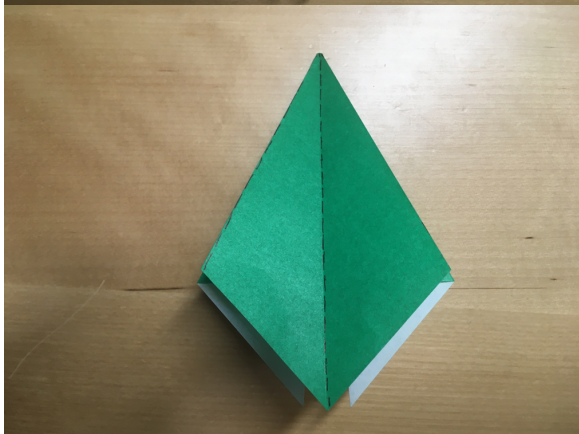
For the upper layer on the right (not both layers), valley fold the upper right edge to the center crease (e). For the upper layer on the left, valley fold the upper left edge to the center crease (f).



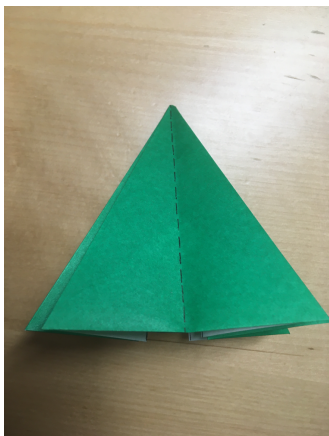
Turn the model over. Repeat the previous step: For the upper layer on the right, valley fold the upper right edge to the center crease. For the upper layer on the left, valley fold the upper left edge to the center crease.



Unfold one flap, open it up, and flatten along existing creases. Repeat for the other three flaps. The result will be four flaps on each side.



Fold one layer of the upside-down triangle area at the lower end of the model up, making a crease from the point on the left to the point on the right (g). Turn the model over and repeat. Turn the flaps like pages of a book to fold up the remaining two triangle areas (four total).



Unfold the four folds made in the previous step, reverse the fold and turn under so the triangle areas are now on the inside of the model. These are mountain folds.



Open the model and fold in half, as shown.

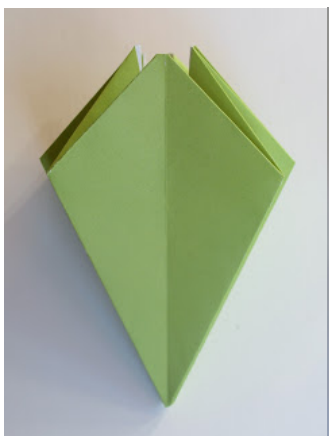
Fold point B to the left, so that line AB lines up with the crease to the left. Fold in the other direction to reinforce the crease. Do this for each point (eight total).



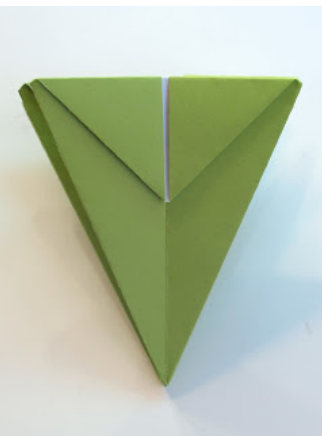
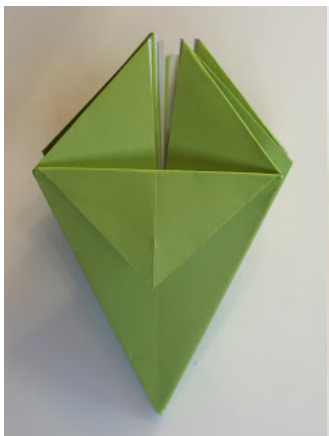
Unfold the model.



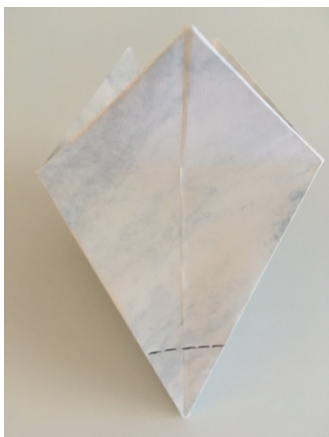
Fold all flaps that you just have folded inside and flatten the model.



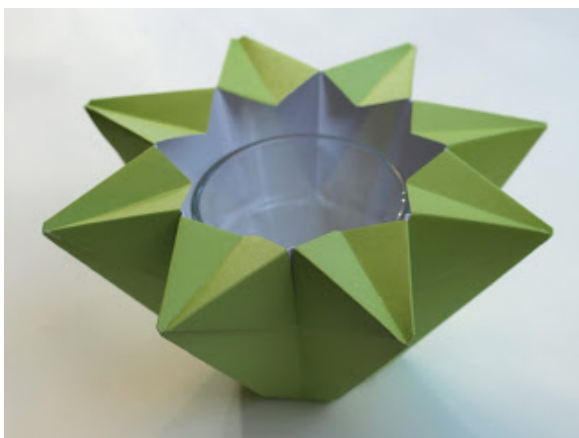
This creates a small book with four pages on each side.



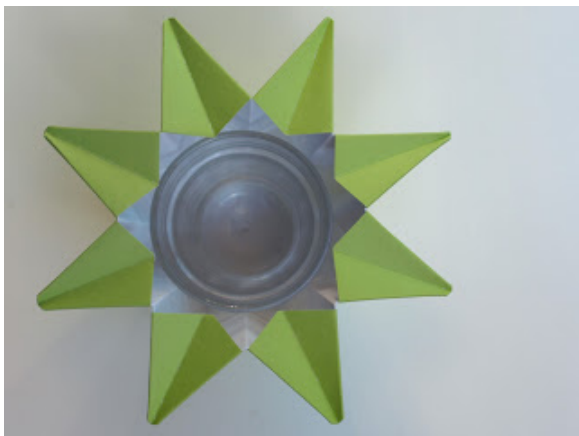
Fold the front point inward. Turn to another page, and repeat (eight total).



Fold the point at the bottom up approximately 1 inch. Fold in the other direction to reinforce the crease. Unfold.



Open the star.



(Optional) Take a glass and press it gently in the center of the star.

Use a battery-operated tea light. Do not use an open flame.

Your star lantern is finished.