



LESSON 22 LEVEL A PAPER CONSTRUCTIONS

AN ORIGAMI HOUSE

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN: folding and decorating paper

WHAT YOU WILL NEED: white or light colored paper 23 x 30 cm (9" x 12") or standard typing paper 21.5 x 28 cm (8 1/2" x 11"); felt markers or crayons

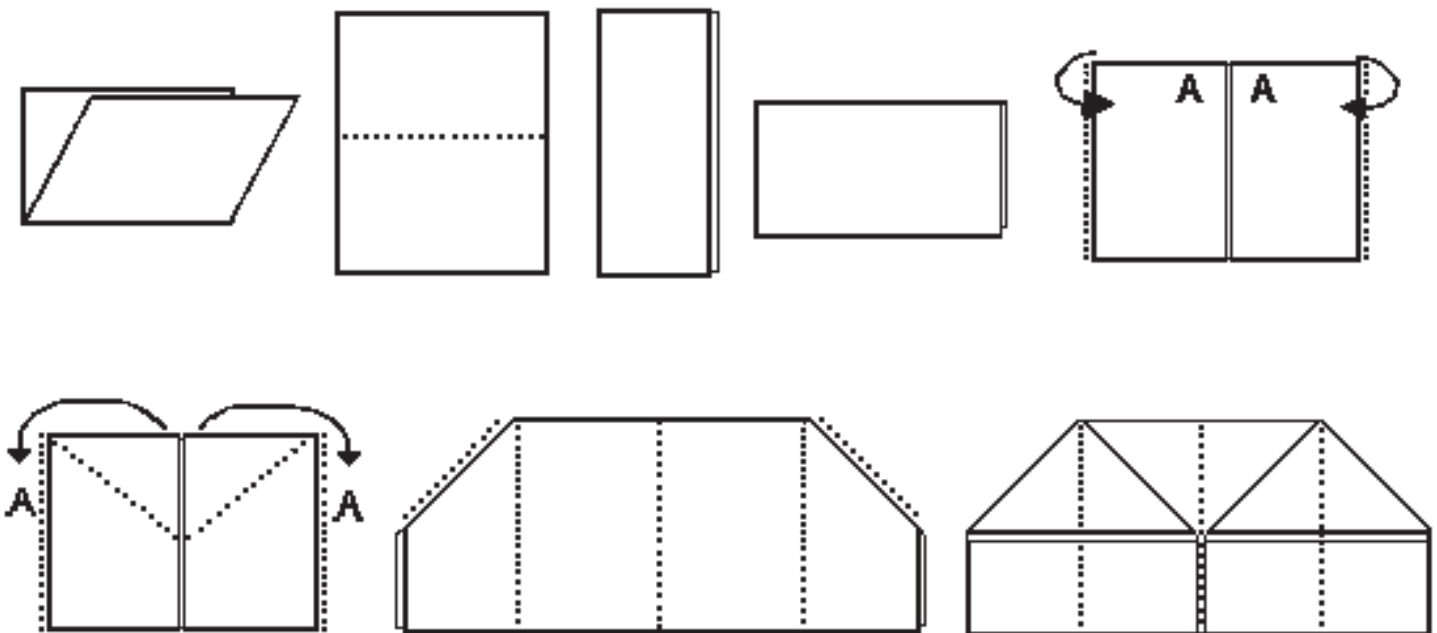
A NOTE TO PARENTS: Call attention to the appearance of houses, especially one-story houses with gables. Note the placement of doors and windows. Four and five-year olds may need help with the folding in this lesson, but leave the decorating to the child. Scale is not important here, only creative ideas.



House with Gables Photograph by Kay Alexander

GETTING STARTED: Japanese children are taught paper folding and decorating skills from a very early age. This craft, called origami, is an art form that can be useful as well as artistic. For example, the origami

house is fun. The house can also be used as a greeting card or as an invitation.



1. Hold the paper lengthwise. Fold it up in half horizontally. Follow the diagrams.

2. Lightly crease the middle and open again. Now fold the paper in half lengthwise. Leave it folded.

3. Holding the paper the long way, bring the left edge to the middle. Crease the fold. Repeat with the right edge.

4. Pull the fold center corners down so that each top fold lies against the side fold. It will look like a western shirt collar. Crease the diagonal folds.



Frank Age 6

5. Re-open to the shape of step 2 (the rectangle with the fold lines.) You will see a triangle at the top. Push the triangles at the top to the inside. Open the ends to make a triangular “gable” at each end. Fold the front flap of the “gable” to the center line. Now the folded form will look like a flat house with wings that can be opened to show a front door, roof line, and garden plants which you will draw. The ends, too, can be decorated.

6. Use felt markers or crayons to draw the door, windows, roof, garden flowers and so on. Add a house number, mail slot and other details.

CLEAN UP: Put away the drawing materials. Could that be any easier?

TALK ABOUT IT: The folding part wasn’t easy, but you could do it again with a little help, couldn’t you? What was the best part of your house decoration?

MORE IDEAS: You could write a party invitation or maybe just your name inside the folded house. Or invite a friend over to make some more houses with you! (You could use the house to make the invitation.)

CONNECTIONS: Houses come in all shapes, sizes, colors and textures. Look carefully at houses in your neighborhood. Notice the different materials used to make them. Do they have different kinds of roofs? Are the shapes of doors and windows all the same? Can you find rectangles? circles? half circles? triangles? Which is your favorite house on the block?