
4th Grade LWSD Art Docent Project: Radial Origami Sculpture

Element of Art: Form

Objective: to create a symmetrical sculpture made of 40 origami forms

Artistic Influence: the origami of Akira Yoshizawa



Elements of Art:

Form

Materials:

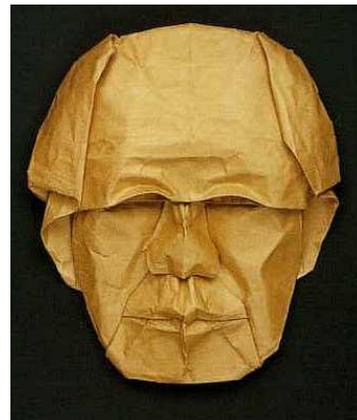
- **Black construction paper – 12" x 12"** (one per student, the exact size is important)
- **Origami paper – 3" x 3" – 40 per student** (again, the exact 3-inch square size is important)
- **Glue sticks**

Instructions and notes:

1. Before teaching the lesson, make sure you have at least 40 3-inch squares per student.
2. It is helpful to have some extra sheets of paper, in case students accidentally tear a sheet or two.
3. View all of the YouTube videos that are embedded in the PowerPoint slide deck and practice them on your own ahead of the lesson.
4. Allow students to choose their own colors. Having stacks of origami paper on a side table sorted by color is helpful in making this process go more quickly.
5. Discuss with students if they would like to have a mix of colors at random or create a pattern by color.
6. Have students fold all of their forms of each type before gluing them down.
7. Make sure that students glue the shapes along the fold lines in the black square backdrop paper.
8. Distribute parent information page for students to take home, and print an extra page to post on your bulletin board with the finished art. See following page.
9. Please complete the brief [LWSD Art Docent Program Feedback Survey](#) for this lesson.
10. Thank you for supporting our elementary students' visual arts education.

LWSD Art Docent Project: Radial Origami Sculptures

The goal of this 4th grade lesson was to create a symmetrical sculpture made of 40 origami forms.



WA State Visual Arts Standard

Create works of art that reflect community cultural traditions. (VA: Cn.10.1.4)

In this art lesson taught by volunteer art docents, students learned that **form** is a three-dimensional object that has height, length, width, and depth. They folded several sheets of origami paper to create three-dimensional forms and glue them into a pattern with radial symmetry.

Our inspiration for this project was the origami mastery of Yoshizawa Akira who lived from 1911 until 2005 and is considered the grandmaster of origami. By 1989, he estimated that he had created over 50,000 origami models, like his incredible self portrait above.

The development of this Lake Washington School District art docent lesson was made possible by a grant from the Lake Washington Schools Foundation.