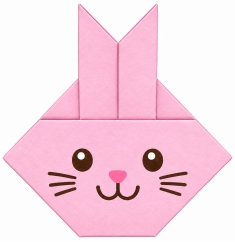
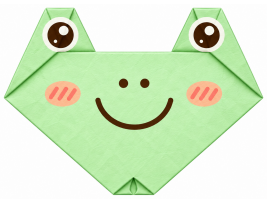
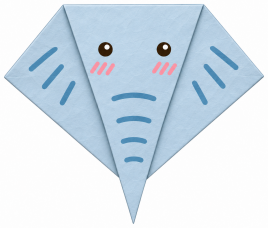
LITTLE PAPER ANIMAL ADVENTURES!

10 Easy Origami Animals for Kids

Step-by-Step Printable Instructions

Ages 5-8 with adult support | 10 projects | 22 pages

Gather your supplies

One thin square of paper per animal, markers or crayons, and a clean, flat table. Try 8 x 8 in (20 x 20 cm) squares with color on one side and white on the other.

How to read the pictures

Solid line: paper edge

Dashed line: fold toward you

Dash-dot line: tuck the paper behind

Arrow: move this corner in that direction

Each numbered picture shows the model BEFORE the action. The small AFTER picture shows the result. A double-headed arrow means fold, press, and open that fold again.

Make it together

Print on US Letter at 100% / Actual Size. Fold a separate paper square; these diagrams are not cutting templates. Match the page orientation, line up corners, and press one crease at a time. Add marker details at the end.

Adult support: read each step aloud and help with small folds. No scissors or glue are needed for the models; an adult can prepare paper squares in advance.

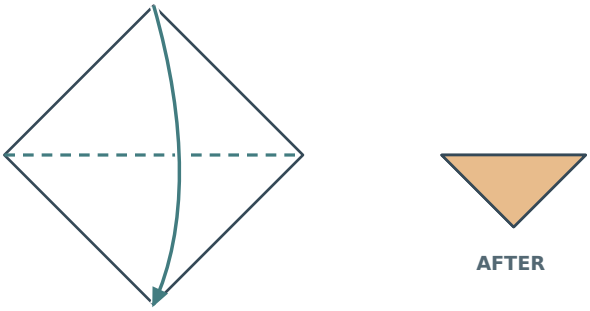
Cute Paper Dog Face

Look closely. Fold slowly. Make something lovely.

START WITH A SQUARE

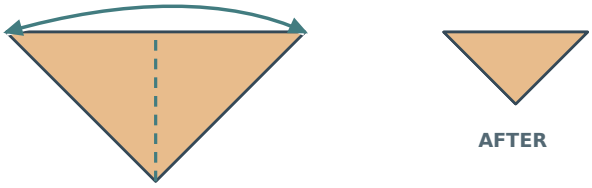
White side up. Hold it like a diamond, with one corner at the top.

1 Make a triangle



White side up. Bring the top corner to the bottom corner. Match the edges and press.

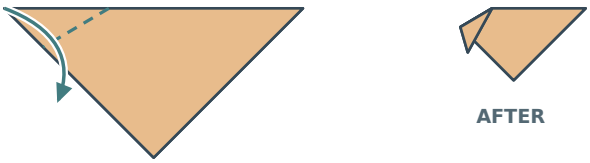
2 Find the middle



Fold the left corner to the right corner. Press lightly, then open only that fold.

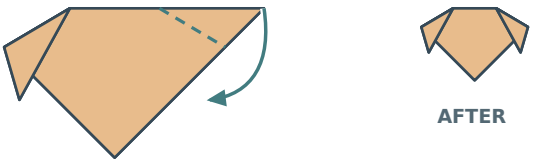
FOLD + OPEN

3 Fold one floppy ear



Bring the left corner down along the slanted dashed line.

4 Match the other ear



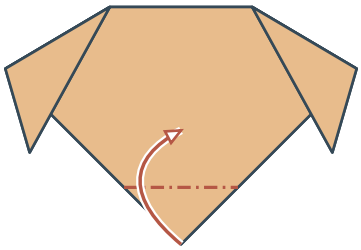
Bring the right corner down. Try to make both ears the same size.

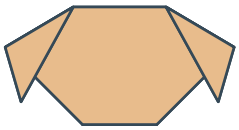
Continue on the next page. Keep the same paper model.

Cute Paper Dog Face

Keep folding, then add your own personality!

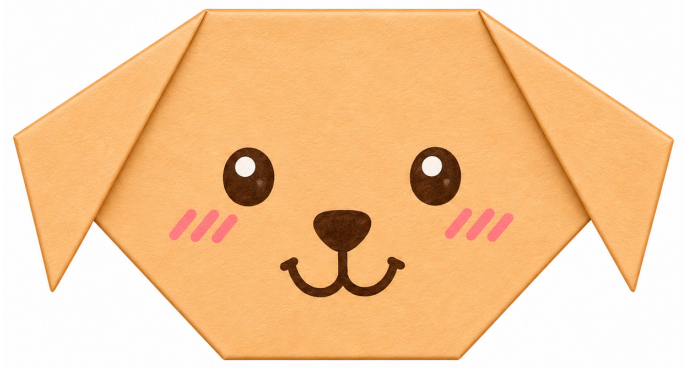
5 Tuck the chin behind





AFTER

Fold only the bottom tip away from you. The small triangle goes behind the face.



YOUR FINISHED MODEL

Add two eyes, a nose and a smile with a marker. The folded corners are the ears.

Make a puppy pal

Draw spots, a sleepy smile, or a tiny heart-shaped nose.

My paper animal is called:

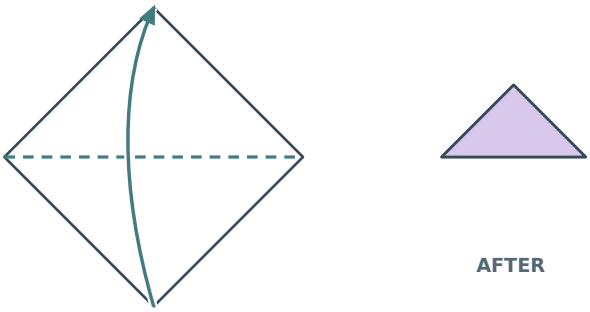
Friendly Cat Face

Look closely. Fold slowly. Make something lovely.

START WITH A SQUARE

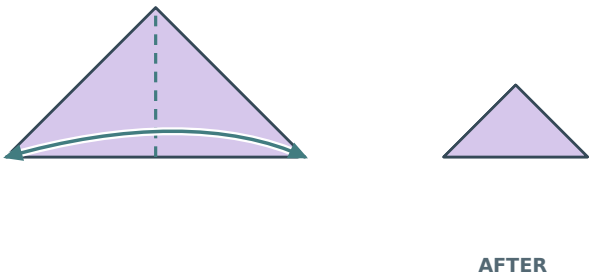
White side up. Hold it like a diamond, with one corner at the top.

1 Make a triangle



White side up. Bring the bottom corner to the top corner. Match the edges and press.

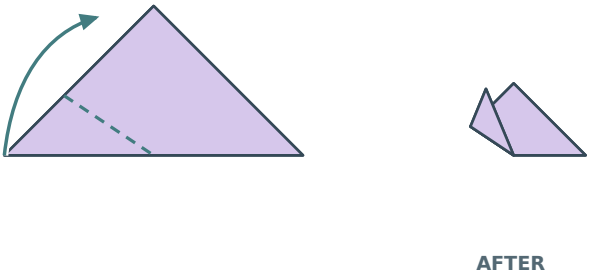
2 Find the middle



Fold the left corner to the right corner. Press lightly, then open only that fold.

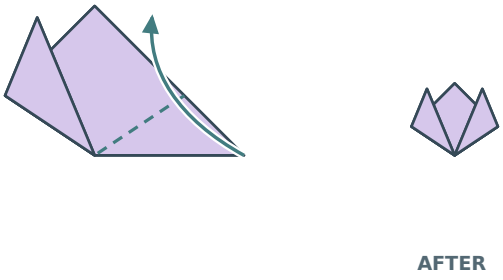
FOLD + OPEN

3 Lift the left ear



Fold the left corner upward on the dashed line. Keep the other layers together.

4 Lift the right ear



Fold the right corner upward to match the first ear.

Continue on the next page. Keep the same paper model.

Friendly Cat Face

Keep folding, then add your own personality!

5 Flatten the forehead

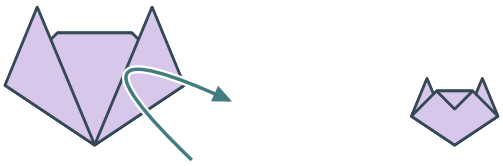


AFTER

Tuck the top middle point behind the face on the dashed line.

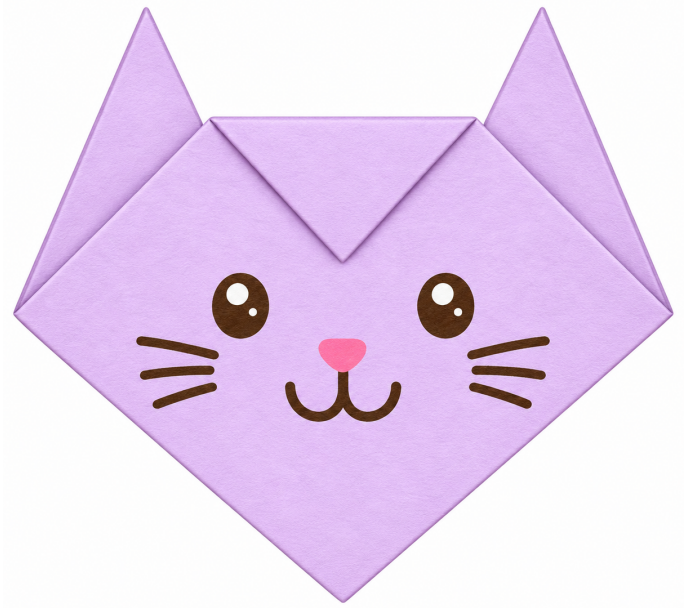
FOLD BEHIND

6 Turn over



AFTER

Turn the whole model over, keeping the top at the top.



YOUR FINISHED MODEL

Draw two eyes, a small nose, a smile and three whiskers on each cheek.

Whisker wonder

Count three whiskers on each cheek. Can your cat look sleepy?

My paper animal is called:

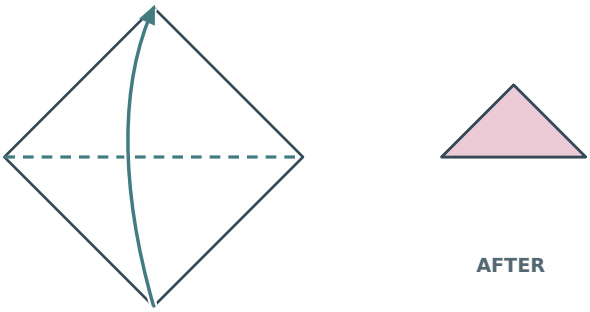
Little Rabbit Face

Look closely. Fold slowly. Make something lovely.

START WITH A SQUARE

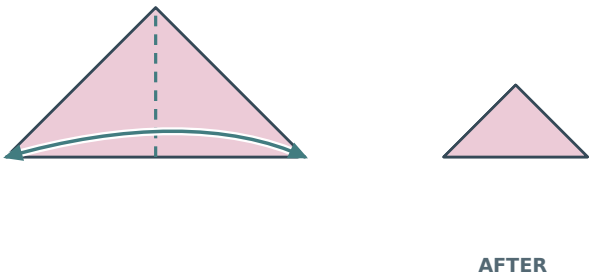
White side up. Hold it like a diamond, with one corner at the top.

1 Make a triangle



White side up. Bring the bottom corner to the top corner. Match the edges and press.

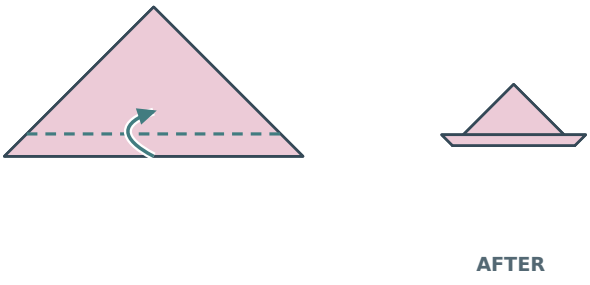
2 Find the middle



Fold the left corner to the right corner. Press lightly, then open only that fold.

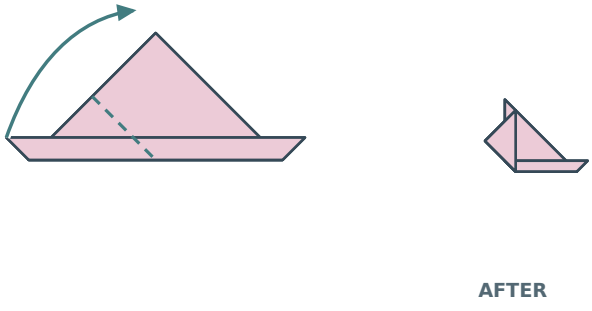
FOLD + OPEN

3 Make a narrow band



Fold the entire bottom edge upward on the dashed line. Keep the band straight.

4 Raise the left ear



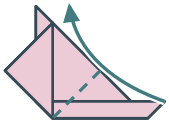
Bring the left end of the band upward toward the center crease.

Continue on the next page. Keep the same paper model.

Little Rabbit Face

Keep folding, then add your own personality!

5 Raise the right ear

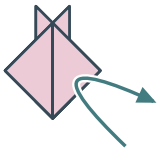




AFTER

Bring the right end up in the same way. Keep both long ears pointing up.

6 Turn over

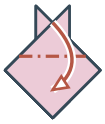




AFTER

Turn the whole model over, keeping the top at the top.

7 Tuck the forehead



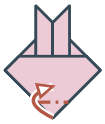


AFTER

Fold the middle top point behind the face. Leave both long ears unfolded.

FOLD BEHIND

8 Tuck the chin

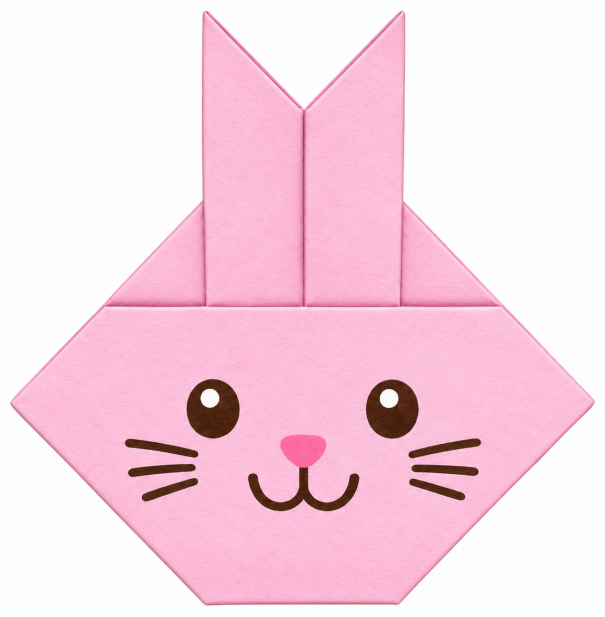




AFTER

Fold the little bottom point behind. Draw eyes, a nose, whiskers and pink inner ears.

FOLD BEHIND



YOUR FINISHED MODEL

Draw eyes, a little nose, whiskers and pink inner-ear marks. The long folded points are the ears.

Bunny ears

Color inside the long paper ears. Give your rabbit a name.

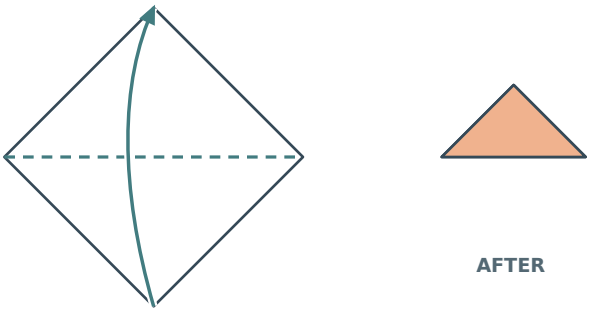
Playful Fox Face

Look closely. Fold slowly. Make something lovely.

START WITH A SQUARE

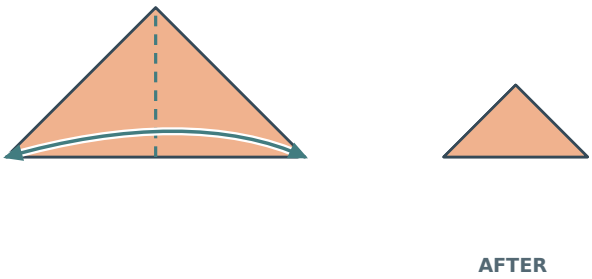
White side up. Hold it like a diamond, with one corner at the top.

1 Make a triangle



White side up. Bring the bottom corner to the top corner. Match the edges and press.

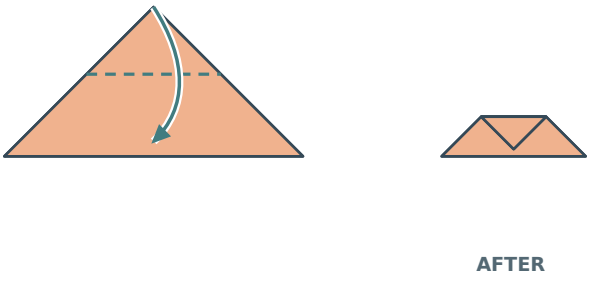
2 Find the middle



Fold the left corner to the right corner. Press lightly, then open only that fold.

FOLD + OPEN

3 Fold the top down



Bring the top point downward along the dashed horizontal line.

4 Turn over



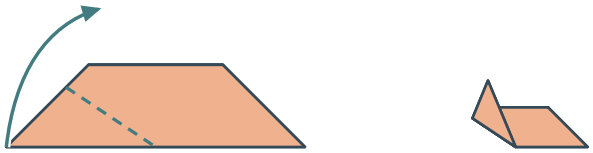
Turn the whole model over, keeping the top at the top.

Continue on the next page. Keep the same paper model.

Playful Fox Face

Keep folding, then add your own personality!

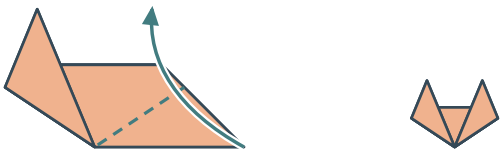
5 Lift the left ear



AFTER

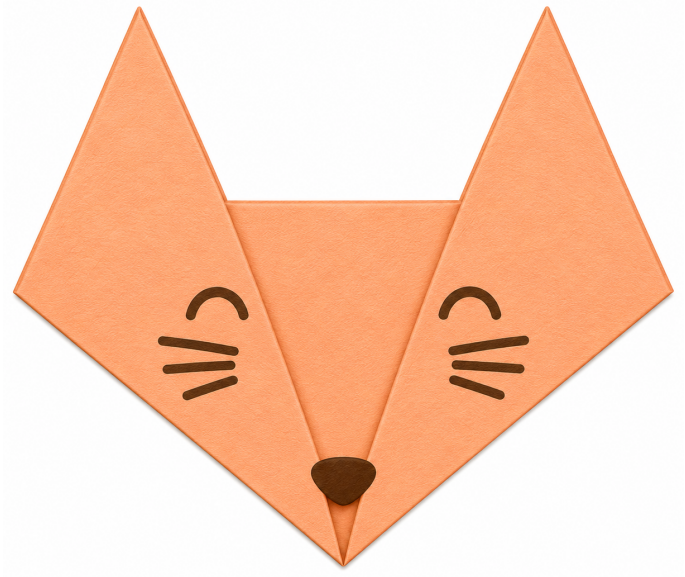
Fold the left corner upward on the dashed line. Keep the other layers together.

6 Lift the right ear



AFTER

Fold the right corner upward to match the first ear.



YOUR FINISHED MODEL

Draw two eyes and a dark nose on the bottom point. Keep the tall pointed ears visible.

Forest friend

Draw a woodland background on a separate sheet of paper.

My paper animal is called:

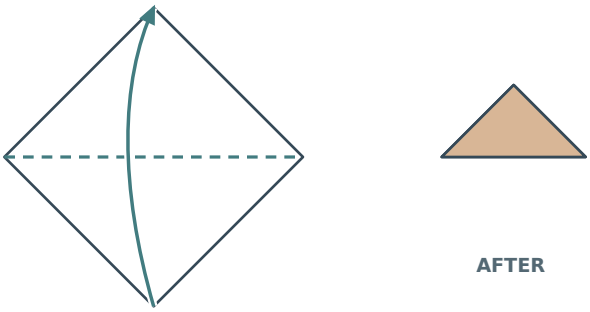
Adorable Bear Face

Look closely. Fold slowly. Make something lovely.

START WITH A SQUARE

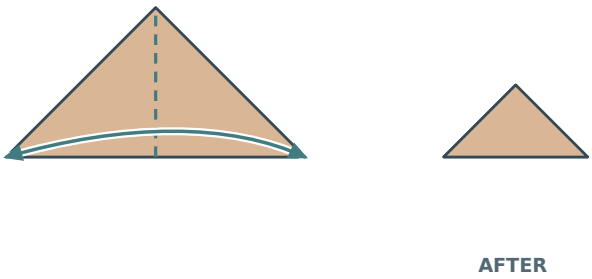
White side up. Hold it like a diamond, with one corner at the top.

1 Make a triangle



White side up. Bring the bottom corner to the top corner. Match the edges and press.

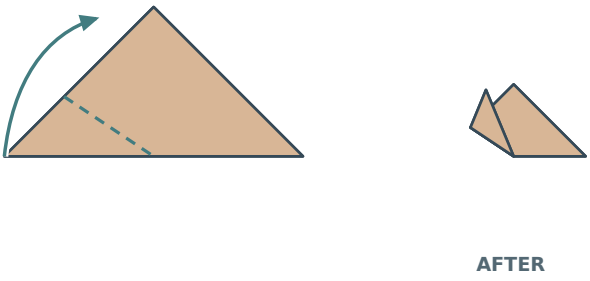
2 Find the middle



Fold the left corner to the right corner. Press lightly, then open only that fold.

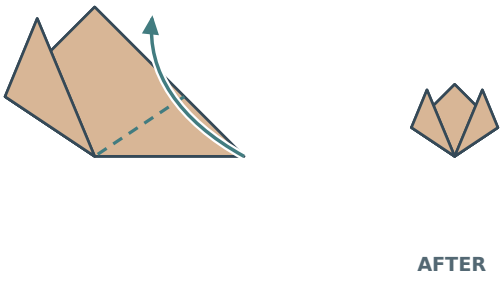
FOLD + OPEN

3 Lift the left ear



Fold the left corner upward on the dashed line. Keep the other layers together.

4 Lift the right ear



Fold the right corner upward to match the first ear.

Continue on the next page. Keep the same paper model.

Adorable Bear Face

Keep folding, then add your own personality!

5 Flatten the top



AFTER

Tuck the top point behind on the dashed line.

FOLD BEHIND

6 Soften both ear tips



AFTER

Fold both little ear tips behind along the same horizontal guide.

FOLD BEHIND

7 Round the chin



AFTER

Tuck the bottom point behind to make a short, flat chin.

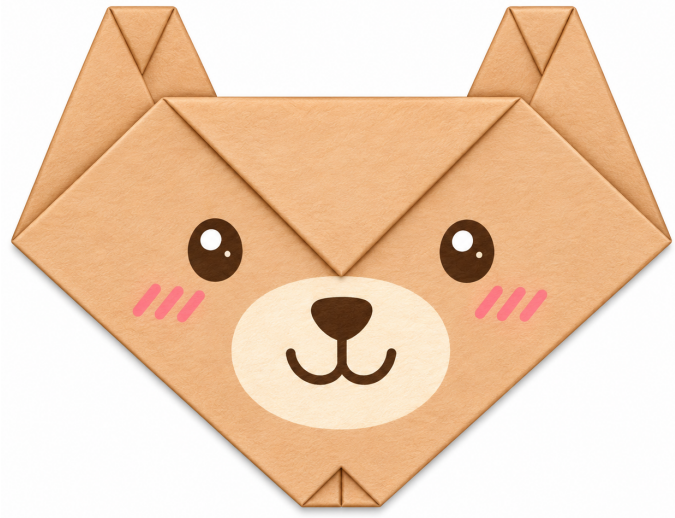
FOLD BEHIND

8 Turn over



AFTER

Turn the whole model over, keeping the top at the top.



YOUR FINISHED MODEL

Add small eyes, a wide oval muzzle and a nose. Draw curved inner-ear marks.

A cozy bear

Try brown, cream, or white paper. Change only the marker details.

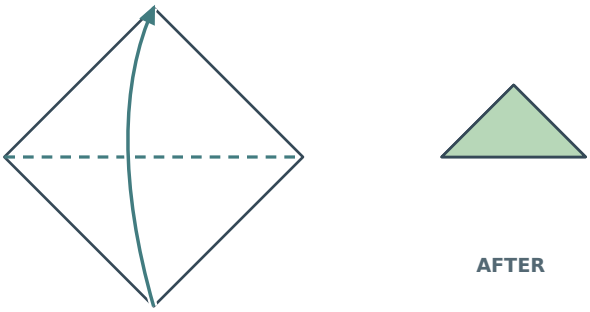
Smiling Frog Face

Look closely. Fold slowly. Make something lovely.

START WITH A SQUARE

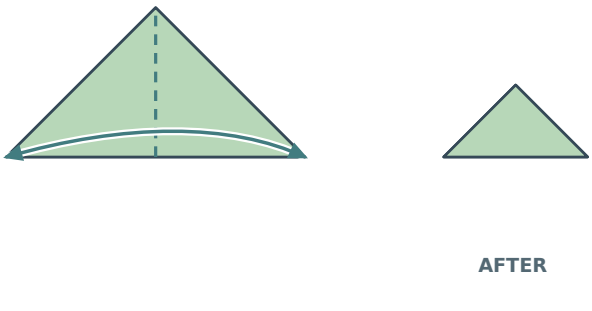
White side up. Hold it like a diamond, with one corner at the top.

1 Make a triangle



White side up. Bring the bottom corner to the top corner. Match the edges and press.

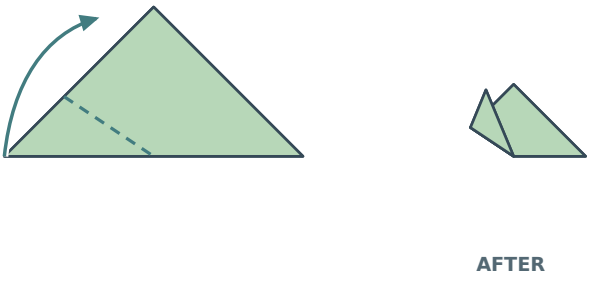
2 Find the middle



Fold the left corner to the right corner. Press lightly, then open only that fold.

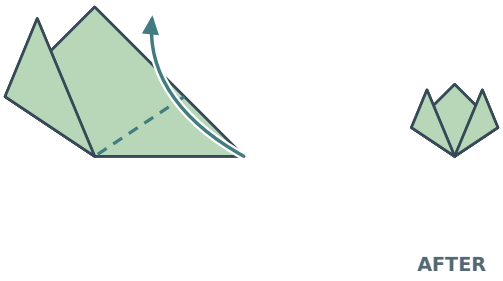
FOLD + OPEN

3 Raise the left eye flap



Fold the left corner upward on the dashed line. Keep the other layers together.

4 Raise the right eye flap



Fold the right corner upward to match the first eye flap.

Continue on the next page. Keep the same paper model.

Smiling Frog Face

Keep folding, then add your own personality!

5 Make the forehead



Fold the center top point down in front on the dashed line.

6 Make flat eye bumps



Tuck both pointed tips behind on the horizontal dashed line.

FOLD BEHIND

7 Make a wide chin



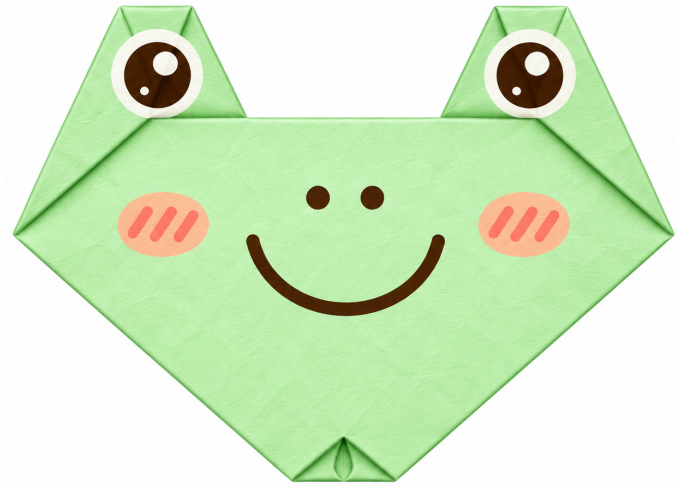
Tuck the lower point behind along the guide. Keep the eye bumps at the top.

FOLD BEHIND

8 Turn over



Turn the whole model over, keeping the top at the top.



YOUR FINISHED MODEL

Draw one large eye on each upper bump. Add two nostrils and a big curved smile.

A pond pal

Add cheek dots and a happy smile. Tell a little pond story.

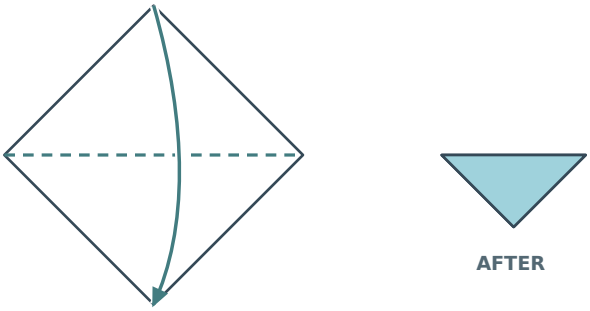
Little Paper Fish

Look closely. Fold slowly. Make something lovely.

START WITH A SQUARE

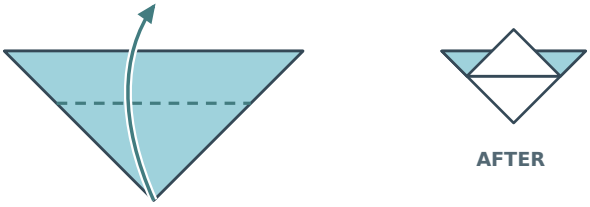
White side up. Hold it like a diamond, with one corner at the top.

1 Make a triangle



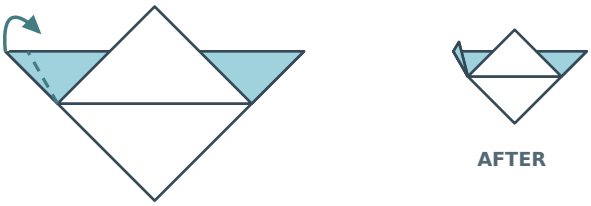
White side up. Bring the top corner to the bottom corner.

2 Lift the front fin



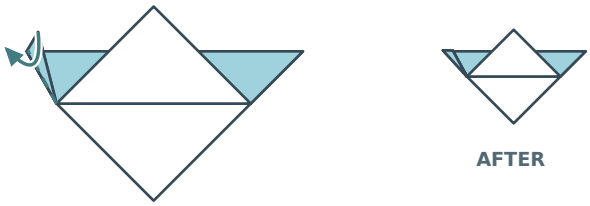
Lift only the front bottom point. Fold it upward on the dashed line; leave the back layer still.

3 Lift the tail corner



Fold the left corner upward on the slanted dashed line.

4 Shape the tail tip



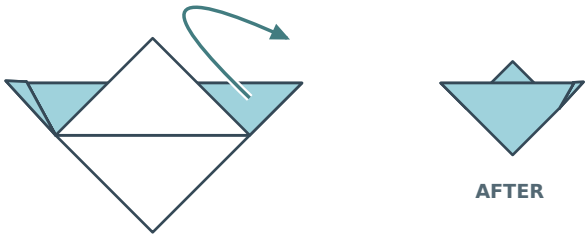
Fold only the free tail tip outward to the left along the short dashed line.

Continue on the next page. Keep the same paper model.

Little Paper Fish

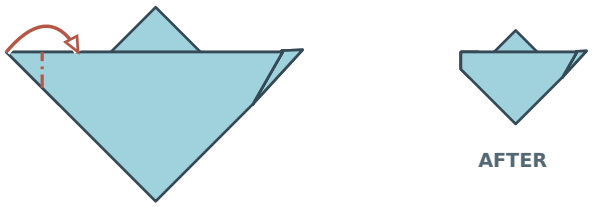
Keep folding, then add your own personality!

5 Turn over



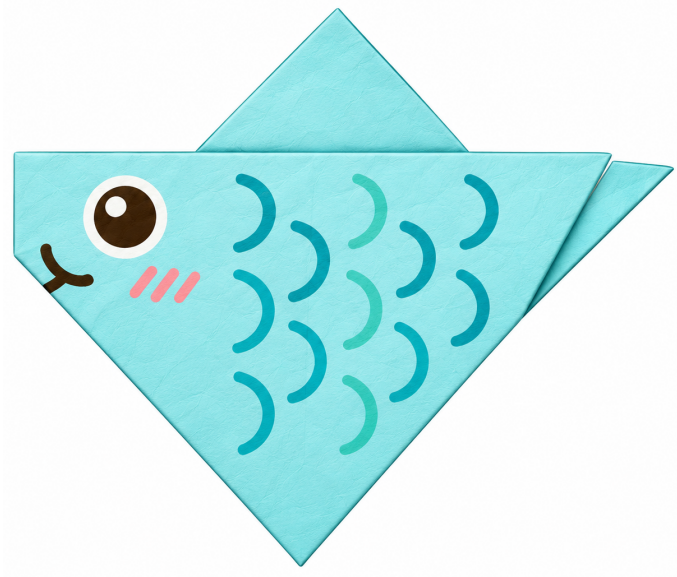
Turn the whole model over, keeping the top at the top.

6 Soften the nose



Tuck the left point behind on the vertical dashed line.

FOLD BEHIND



YOUR FINISHED MODEL

Draw an eye near the left side and a curved smile. Add a few scales on the body.

A tiny ocean explorer

Draw scales and bubbles. Which way is your fish swimming?

My paper animal is called:

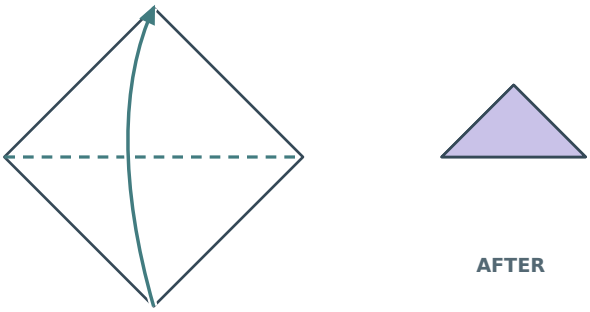
Pretty Paper Butterfly

Look closely. Fold slowly. Make something lovely.

START WITH A SQUARE

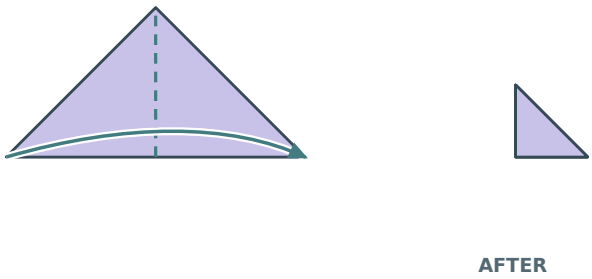
White side up. Hold it like a diamond, with one corner at the top.

1 Make a triangle



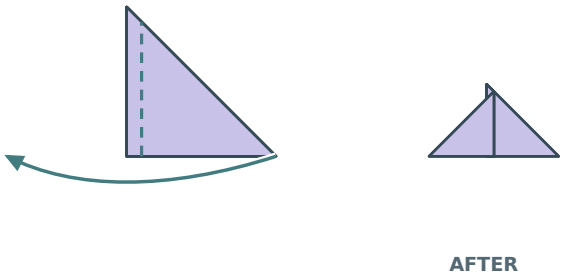
White side up. Bring the bottom corner to the top corner. Match the edges and press.

2 Fold the triangle in half



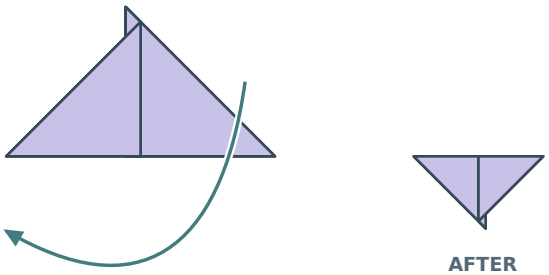
Bring the left corner to the right corner. Press the center fold.

3 Open the front wing



Fold only the front triangle back to the left on the dashed line. Leave the lower layers still.

4 Rotate the model



Rotate the whole model a half-turn on the table. The narrow point now faces down.

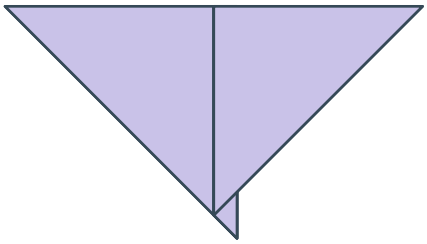
Continue on the next page. Keep the same paper model.

Pretty Paper Butterfly

Keep folding, then add your own personality!

Your folds are finished!

Compare your model with the last AFTER picture on the previous page. Open the two wings gently and keep the narrow center crease.



Folded shape before decorating



YOUR FINISHED MODEL

Draw a slim body and matching spots on both wings. Keep the antennae and all decorations inside the paper edges.

A wing-pattern game

Decorate both wings with matching dots. Keep all marker details on the paper.

My paper animal is called:

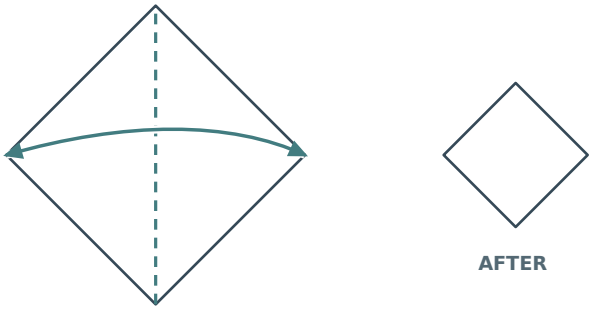
Wise Little Owl Face

Look closely. Fold slowly. Make something lovely.

START WITH A SQUARE

White side up. Hold it like a diamond, with one corner at the top.

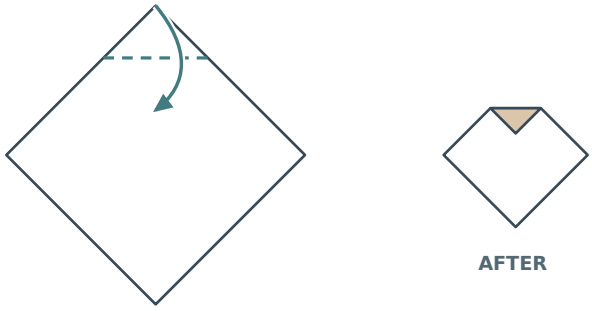
1 Find the middle



Fold the left corner to the right corner. Press lightly, then open only that fold.

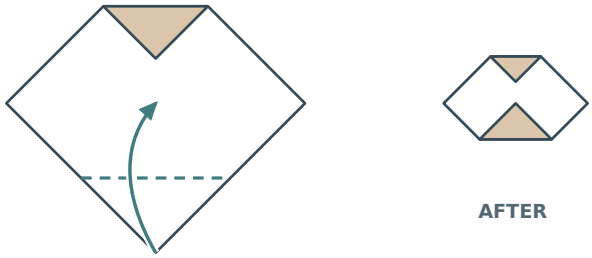
FOLD + OPEN

2 Fold the top point



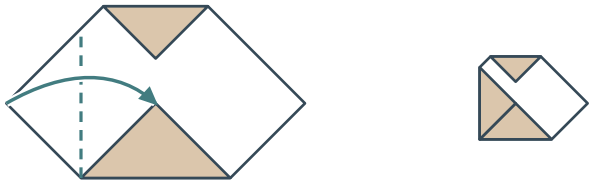
White side up. Bring the top corner down on the dashed line.

3 Fold the lower point



Bring the bottom corner upward on the dashed line.

4 Fold the left side in



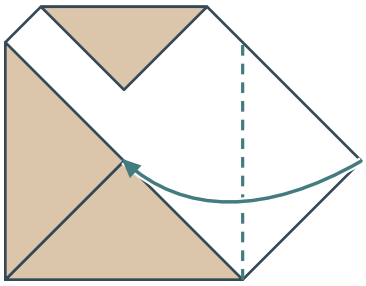
Bring the left corner to the center crease.

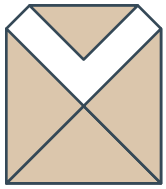
Continue on the next page. Keep the same paper model.

Wise Little Owl Face

Keep folding, then add your own personality!

5 Fold the right side in





AFTER

Bring the right corner to the center crease. Match the side edges.



YOUR FINISHED MODEL

Draw two big round eyes, a small triangular beak and curved feather marks.

Who is your owl?

Add two big eyes and a small beak. Count the feather marks.

My paper animal is called:

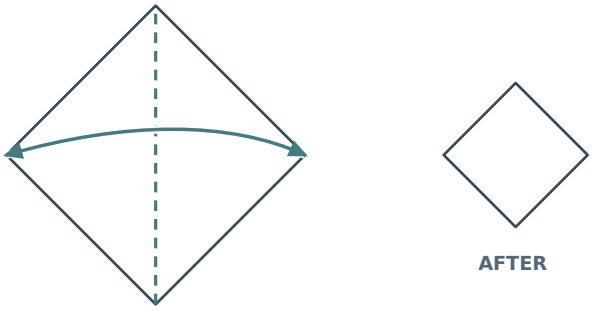
Gentle Elephant Face

Look closely. Fold slowly. Make something lovely.

START WITH A SQUARE

White side up. Hold it like a diamond, with one corner at the top.

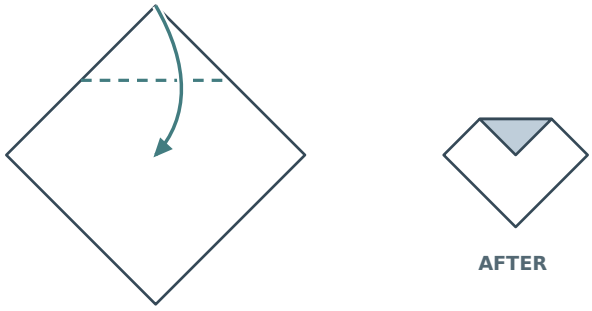
1 Find the middle



Fold the left corner to the right corner. Press lightly, then open only that fold.

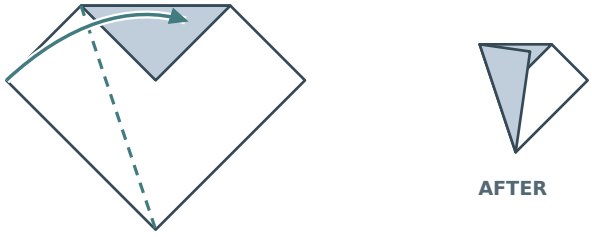
FOLD + OPEN

2 Fold the top point



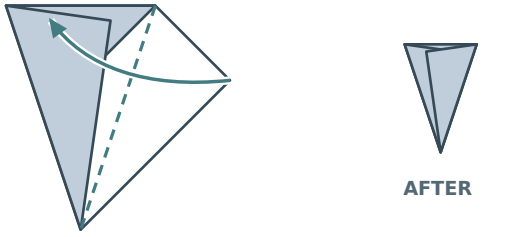
White side up. Fold the top corner down to the middle.

3 Narrow the left side



Fold the left corner inward along the slanted dashed line.

4 Narrow the right side



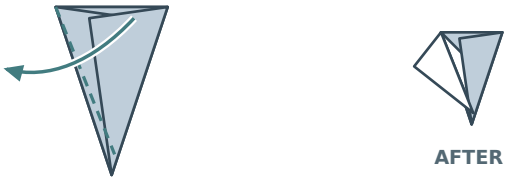
Fold the right corner inward to match. Keep the long bottom point.

Continue on the next page. Keep the same paper model.

Gentle Elephant Face

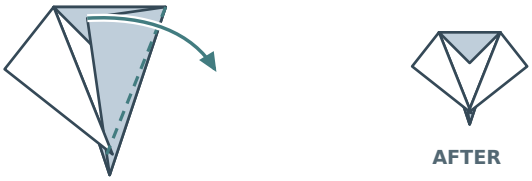
Keep folding, then add your own personality!

5 Open the left ear



Fold only the free left flap outward on the slanted guide.

6 Open the right ear

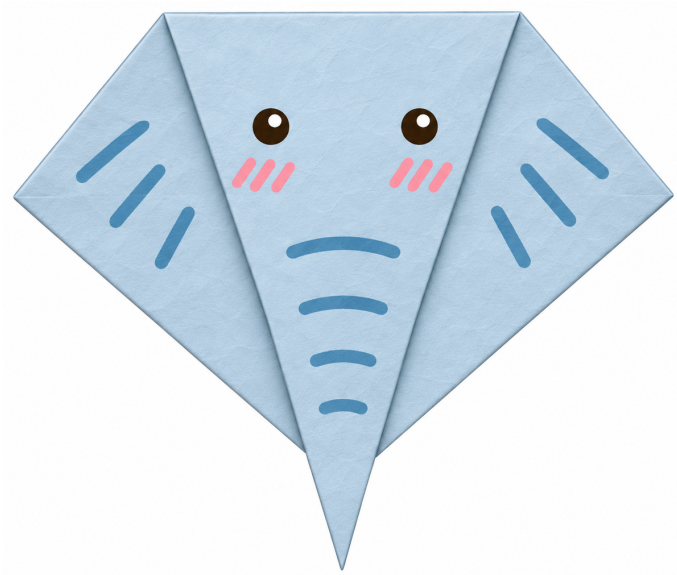


Fold only the free right flap outward on the slanted guide.

7 Turn over



Turn the whole model over, keeping the top at the top.



YOUR FINISHED MODEL

Draw two eyes and short trunk lines. The two wide side flaps are the ears.

A gentle giant

Draw short lines across the long trunk. Make a family with different paper sizes.

LITTLE PAPER ANIMAL ADVENTURES!

Meet your paper animals!

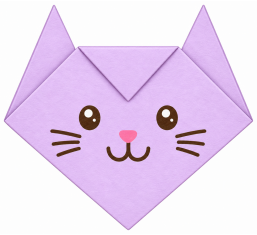
Ten little creations, each from one square of paper.



01

Dog

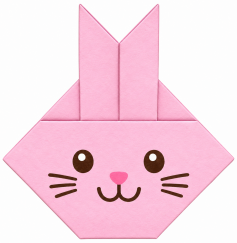
Pages 2-3



02

Cat

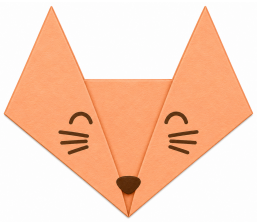
Pages 4-5



03

Rabbit

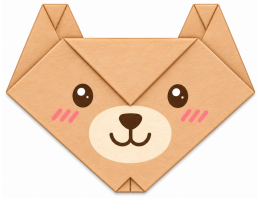
Pages 6-7



04

Fox

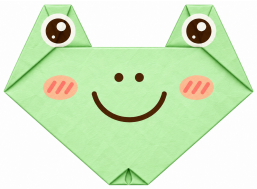
Pages 8-9



05

Bear

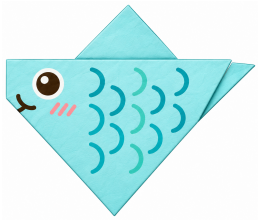
Pages 10-11



06

Frog

Pages 12-13



07

Fish

Pages 14-15



08

Butterfly

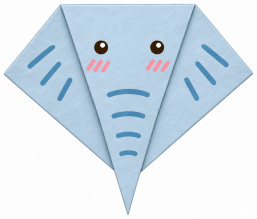
Pages 16-17



09

Owl

Pages 18-19



10

Elephant

Pages 20-21

Fold, decorate, tell a story - then try another animal!