How to Make Your Own Origami Sampan

Materials needed:
8.5” x 11” or 11” square sheet of either colored origami paper or any other paper that folds easily and will not tear.

step 1
Fold the paper in half. Then fold in half again to make four sections.

step 2
With the patterned side up, fold both edges in to the center crease.

step 3
Fold the sheet in half backward along the center crease.

step 4
Fold the corner up to the top edge.

Materials needed:
8.5” x 11” or 11” square sheet of either colored origami paper or any other paper that folds easily and will not tear.

step 1
Fold the paper in half. Then fold in half again to make four sections.

step 2
With the patterned side up, fold both edges in to the center crease.

step 3
Fold the sheet in half backward along the center crease.

step 4
Fold the corner up to the top edge.
step 5
Repeat step 4 for the remaining corners.

step 6
Fold the bottom right hand corner up along the dotted line. Repeat for remaining corners.

step 7
Fold the bottom corner up to the top edge.

step 8
Open up the top. Spread open the two sides. Starting at one side, slowly turn it inside out while opening it up.

Put your boat in water and watch it sail away!

Your finished product!

Smithsonian Institution

For more information on the ImaginAsia Family Program, visit asia.si.edu.

Boat Origami © Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution. Used with permission. All rights reserved.