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Math in the Fold
April, 2026

Welcome to the Origami section of the Year of Mathematics!

Many of you are probably familiar with the origami crane or the fortune teller, but there are many mathematical ideas embedded in origami models.

In this series, we will introduce models that have interesting mathematical connections. This activity series will take place every other month, so you may want to purchase a small pack of kami (origami) paper, 6" square is a good general size.

Project: *Inflatable Tulip*
Designer: Traditional
Paper needed: 2 sheets Kami (one for flower, one for stem/leaf), 6" square or larger (you may substitute printer paper). For a fancier tulip, print this sheet and don't forget to cut into a square.

Click here for directions to fold the tulip and here for the stem and leaf.

When you've finished, come back for some interesting questions.

Questions to engage your mathematical brain / to make mathematical connections

- What factors allow the tulip to stand independently? Is the balance affected by the stem, by the flower, both? In what ways?
- What did you think was interesting about folding this model?

…Start here, go anywhere!

Want more?

- Sign up for Folding Fridays at MoMath
- Explore the OrigamiUSA website

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