MO MATH
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MATHEMATICS
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Math in the Fold
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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: *An Action Heart*
Designer: Sy Chen
Paper needed: 1 sheet Kami, 6" square or larger (you may substitute printer paper)

Click here for directions to fold the heart. When you've finished, come back for some interesting questions.

Questions to engage your mathematical brain / to make mathematical connections

- What shapes do you notice in the heart? Do you see shapes that together make other shapes?
- Does the heart look exactly the same in each squashed position? If not, what are the differences?
- Is the heart symmetric? Does it have two halves that are the same? Can you rotate it so that it looks the same in a different position? For example, if you rotate it 180º, does it look the same as when you started?
- What else do you notice?
- Experiment: with the heart lying flat on the table, draw diagonal lines across the entire front and back faces. Next, squash the heart. Where are the stripes now?

…Start here, go anywhere!

Want more?

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