# Origami Butterfly

## verbal instructions

1. Start with a 6-inch by 6-inch (or similar size) square of paper.
2. Place the paper face down on the table in a diamond shape with the points at 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, and 9:00.
3. Fold the 6:00 point up to meet the 12:00 point and crease it. The folded paper forms a triangle, with the widest flat side at 6:00, and the double-layer point at 12:00.
4. Open the paper back up to a diamond, then fold the 9:00 point over to meet the 3:00 point and crease it. The folded paper forms a triangle, with the widest flat side at 9:00, and the double-layer point at 3:00.
5. Open the paper back up to a diamond, then rotate it 45 degrees in either direction so that it is resting in a square shape with flat edges at 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, and 9:00.
6. Flip the paper over so that it sits puffed up slightly, like a little tent. Make sure that it is oriented as a square again before doing the next step.
7. Fold the 6:00 flat side up to meet the 12:00 flat side and crease it. The folded paper forms a rectangle, open at the top, with the long sides at 12:00 and 6:00, and the short sides at 9:00 and 3:00.
8. Open the paper back up, orient it as a square, then fold the 9:00 flat side over to meet the 3:00 flat side and crease it. The folded paper forms a rectangle (open on the right), with the short sides at 12:00 and 6:00, and the long sides at 9:00 and 3:00.
9. Open the paper back up and set it down gently, oriented as a square. Hold the paper’s edge down gently with one hand, and use the other hand to reach underneath the paper and poke up the center. It should sit like a tent that's shaped a little like a four-pointed star. It has a peak in the center, with "mountain" folds leading from the center to each corner of the square, and "valley" folds leading from the center to the middle of each side of the square.
10. Make finger guns with both hands and use the tips of your index fingers to find where the paper’s edges meet the table at 9:00 and 3:00. Each index fingertip should rest on the table, just off the edge of the paper at one of the valley folds.
11. Keeping the tips of your index fingers down and the rest of your fingers up off the table, slide your index fingers toward each other on the table until they meet at the center. The paper will rise up in between your fingertips, with the center point of the paper pointing up toward the sky.
12. Holding your index fingers together with the paper trapped in between, rotate both palms to face flat toward the table surface. Spread the thumb and middle finger of each hand wide apart. Your thumbs should be pointing toward yourself, your middle fingers pointing away toward 12:00, and your index fingers still down on the table, holding the paper steady in between.
13. Catch the 12:00 side of the paper with your middle fingers, and the 6:00 side of the paper with your thumbs, and bring both layers of paper toward your index fingers, creating a sandwich.
14. Pull your index fingers out. You should be holding a small folded triangle, with its widest flat side resting on the table, and each hand holding one of the points at either end of that wide base. The peak of the triangle is pointing up toward the sky. Crease the folds down both sides.
15. Lay the triangle down away from you, toward 12:00. It wants to pop open, but if you press your hand down on it gently, it flattens to a small folded triangle with its peak at 12:00 and its widest flat side toward you.
16. Holding the triangle down with one hand, fold the top layer of the right hand point up to meet the peak at 12:00 and crease it. Then fold the top layer of the left hand point up to meet the peak at 12:00 and crease it.
17. Pick up the whole folded piece and flip it toward you. Now the widest flat side of the triangle is at 12:00, the peak is at 6:00, and the narrow parts you folded up in the last step are resting on the table.
18. Pick up the top layer of the peak at 6:00 and curl it up toward 12:00. Do not flatten it! Keep pulling the point just past that flat edge at 12:00. This will not be a flat fold, but instead the top layer curves up slightly above the bottom layer. Pull just enough of the triangle tip past the edge to be able to fold that little extended part over securely. Fold the little pointed tip over the flat edge at 12:00 and crease it firmly.
19. Keep hold of the tiny folded-over triangle tip and flip the piece over. You should now be holding the piece together firmly between your thumb and index finger at 12:00. It probably still wants to pop open. The spot at which you are holding the piece together suggests the butterfly’s head, at the top of a slight valley fold from 12:00 to 6:00 that suggests the body.
20. Keeping the tiny triangle fold closed between the index finger and thumb of one hand, bring the other hand underneath the piece and squeeze the left and right halves together, firmly creasing the valley fold down the center.
21. When you let go, the butterfly should hold its shape. With the head at 12:00, the creased valley fold from 12:00 to 6:00 indicates the butterfly’s body. Wings flare out on both sides, with sharp points at about 10:00 and 2:00, and sharp points pointing almost straight down to both sides of 6:00.
22. All butterflies are beautiful! If you would like to send yours in to be part of a Flock of Butterflies community art display, please mail it to us and be sure to include your first and last name on a separate piece of paper. Our mailing address is: GLS Atlanta Library, First Floor, One Margaret Mitchell Square NW, Atlanta, GA 30303.