



CHAPTER 4

PAPER CRAFTS

In this chapter, you will have the chance to discover paper as a fascinating artistic medium. You will explore various techniques like folding, cutting and weaving. Along the way, you will also learn about Indian art traditions such as *Sanjhi* paper cuts. You will find many creative ways to experiment with this versatile material.



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ACTIVITY 1: PAPER FOLDING

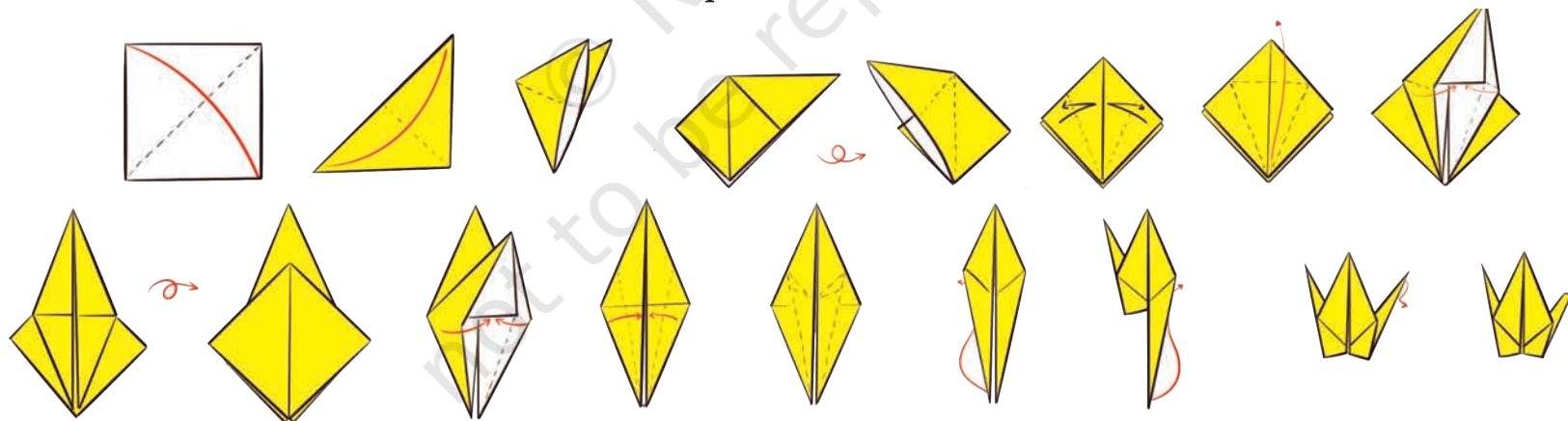
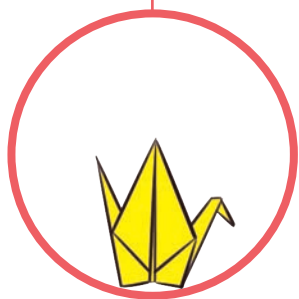
The art of folding paper is known as origami. It is an art form that originated in Japan and has spread across the world.

You might have already learnt to make a few things by folding paper.

Do you know the story of *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*? Sadako was a young 11 year old Japanese girl, who developed an incurable disease from the ill-effects of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945. While she was undergoing treatment in the hospital, her friend

told her a legend about making paper cranes. Sadako began making 1000 paper cranes with the hope of living and extending her life. She died shortly after making 644 cranes. But she herself has become a legend across the world. Even today, people from all over the world make paper cranes and send it to the Children's Peace Monument in Japan. Paper cranes have become a symbol of peace.

You can make many different things by folding paper. Learn from your teacher, parents and friends on how to make a variety of things by folding paper.



Instructions to make a paper crane



Sanjhi paper cut

ACTIVITY 2: PAPER CUTTING

Sanjhi is a traditional art form that is practiced in Mathura and its surrounding regions in Uttar Pradesh. It is believed that this art was originally used as a stencil for *rangoli*. Nowadays, these stencils are made of paper and are very intricately cut out in a variety of designs and images.

You can plan your own pictures and designs, and create simple stencils. You can even use these paper cuts to create lanterns and other decorations.

Here are some ideas. Experiment on your own and share new ideas with each other in your class.



DO YOU KNOW

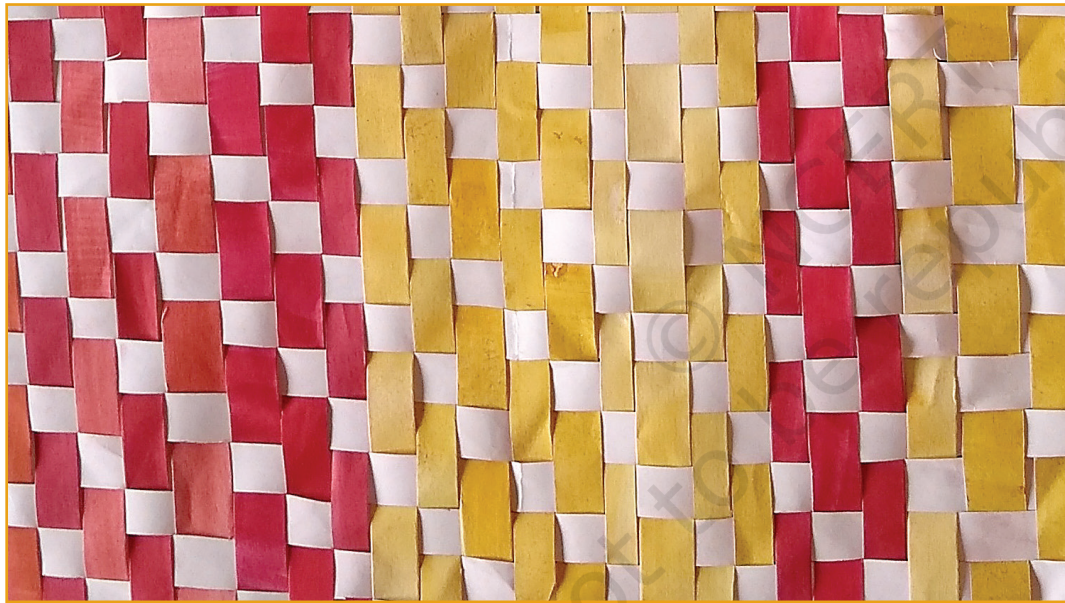
The paper, cloth or plastic decorations hung on strings during festivals and occasions are called buntings. They are often very colourful, and can be made even more decorative by cutting out various shapes and patterns!



ACTIVITY 3: PAPER WEAVING

Paper is a magical material. It can change forms easily as you saw in the previous activity. With a few cuts and folds, it can morph into organisms and objects.

Let's experiment with another method of crafting paper weaving. If you look at any cloth around you closely, you will be able to see that it is made of tightly criss-crossed threads. This criss-cross is also called **warp and weft**. Let's try and do this with paper. Look at the pictures and try to weave your own mat.



Continue: Explore other media like natural fibres, cotton, wool, bamboo, jute, palm, discarded strips of fabric for weaving, etc.

