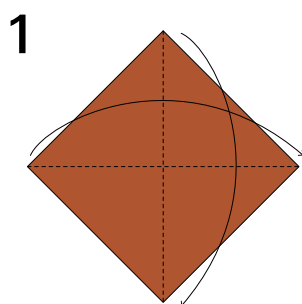
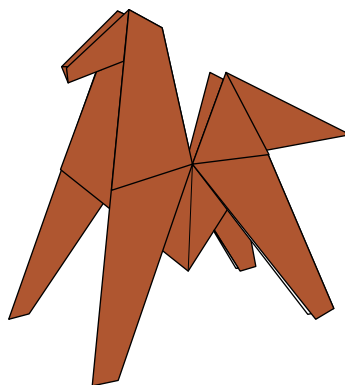


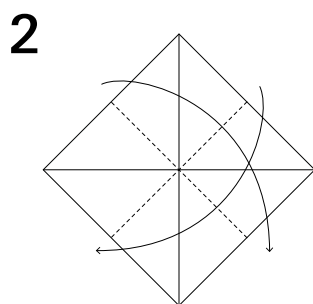
おりがみ馬の折り方

How to Make an Origami Horse

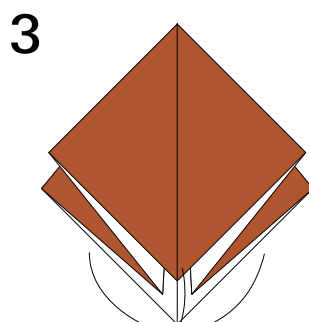
Make your own origami horse and see how many somersaults it can do.



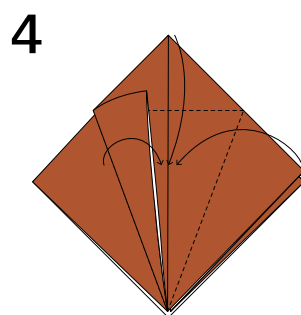
1
Take a square piece of paper. If using origami paper, begin with the coloured side facing up. Fold in half, corner to corner. Unfold and then fold in half again, corner to corner, in the other direction. Unfold.



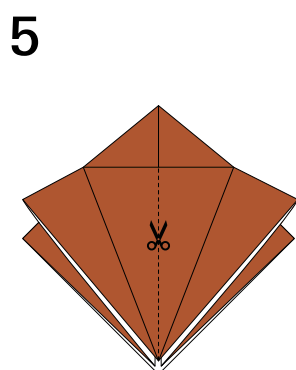
2
Flip the paper over to the white side. Fold in half, edge to edge. Unfold, and fold in half again, edge to edge, in the other direction. Unfold.



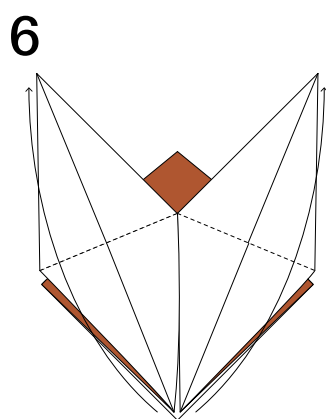
3
Using the creases you have made, bring the top corner down to the bottom, while also folding the left and right corners in to meet at the bottom, creating a square base.



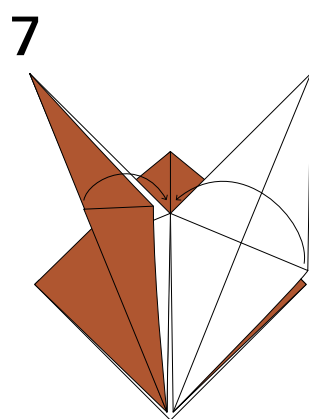
4
Fold the top triangle downwards and the left and right flaps of the front layer inwards. Unfold.



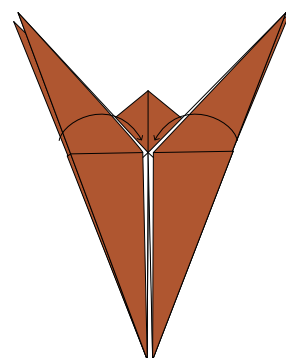
5
Carefully cut the top layer only along the centre line from the bottom to the base of the upper triangle.



6
Fold the top layer of the cut flaps upwards along the dotted lines. Make sure the lengths match as these will be your horse's feet.

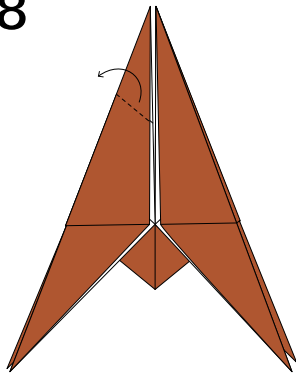


7
Fold the diamonds you have just created in half along their central creases.

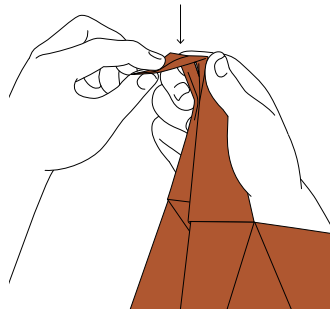


Flip over and repeat steps 4–7 on the other side.

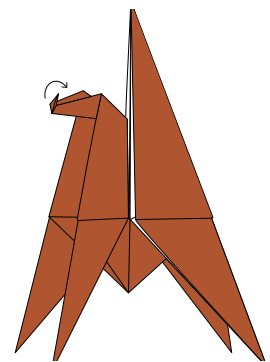
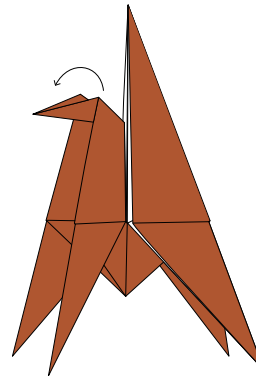
8



Rotate the paper upside down and create the head. Inside reverse fold the upper left side.

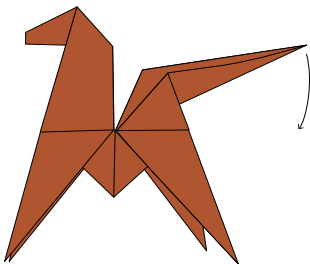


Tip: to create an inside reverse fold, fold the tip downwards on both sides. Open and push the centre crease inwards, then flatten to finish.

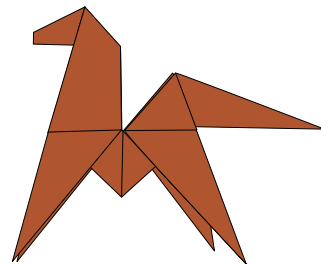


Fold the tip of the head inwards to create a nose. You can decide the size and shape of the head.

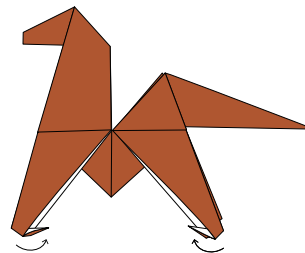
9



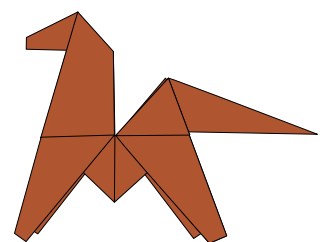
Inside reverse fold the upper right side to create the tail.



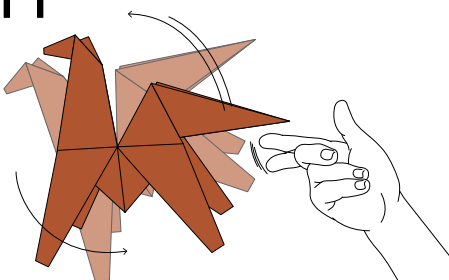
10



Fold the tips of the legs upwards on the inside of the model to give the illusion of hooves.



11



Tap upwards under the tail to make your horse somersault and race with your friends!

Did you know?

In the zodiac system used in Japan, the horse is the seventh of twelve signs in a cycle. Each year is represented by an animal, often believed to shape the personality of those born in it.

In Japan's Shintō religion, horses are considered mounts of the *kami* ('spirits' or 'deities'). Since the Nara period (710–794), people have donated horses to shrines. These horses, known as *shinme*, are cared for at the shrine as sacred animals. This tradition continues today at some shrines, such as Ise Grand Shrine in Mie Prefecture. Over time, gifts of real horses have been mostly replaced with *ema* (lit. 'picture horses'), wooden plaques, often painted with horses, on which people write wishes.

Horses still appear in festivals across Japan, such as Sōma-Nomaoi in Fukushima Prefecture. This thousand-year-old festival features a parade of armoured riders on horseback and dramatic horse races. The luck associated with horses also lives on in folk crafts like *yawata uma*. These brightly coloured carved wooden horses from Aomori Prefecture are thought to bring happiness to families.