

ACTIVITY!

MAKE
YOUR
OWN!

ORIGAMI SOLAR SYSTEM MOBILE

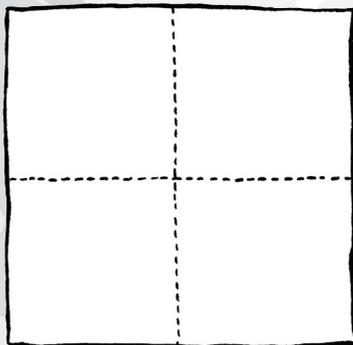
All the members of our solar system travel around the sun. The route they travel is called an orbit. Each planet's orbit is different. Like runners at the Olympics, each has a separate lane. The planets do not switch lanes because the sun's gravity keeps them in their place. If there was no gravity the planets would simply spin off into space like bumper cars. Imagine that!

Supplies

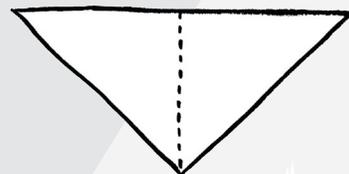
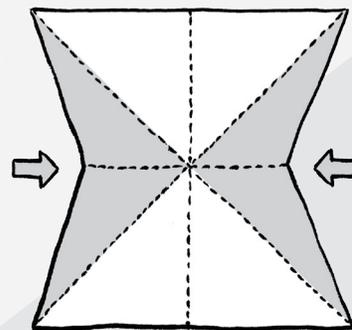
colored
lightweight
paper

wire hanger
thin wire or
string

1 Fold a 6-inch (15¼-centimeter) square piece of paper in half, top to bottom. Press down hard to make a good crease. Fold in half again, right to left. Make a firm crease again. Spread the paper out flat.

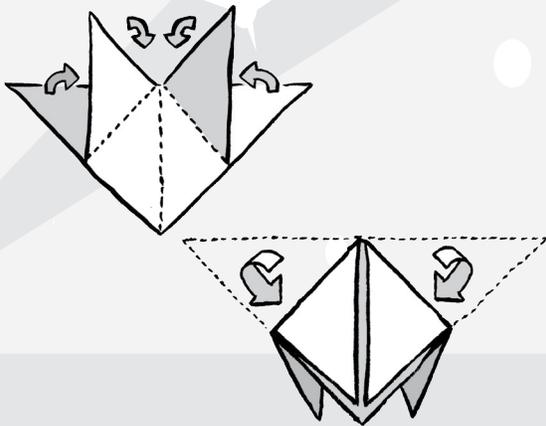


2 Fold opposite corners together to form a triangle. Unfold the paper, then fold the other opposite corners together. Now unfold the paper and spread it flat again. Fold the paper in and down to make a triangle, as shown.

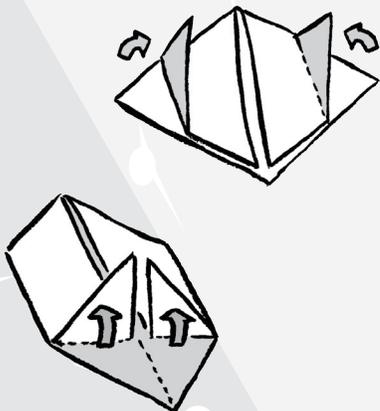


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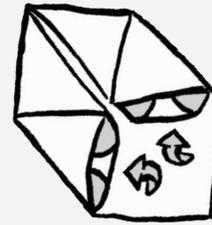
3 Swing the right edge up to left, and down. Swing the right edge up, to the right, and down to form a diamond. Turn over and repeat. Fold the bottom corners to the top point and press down.



4 Fold side edges to the center and press down. Turn bottom corners up and crease. Fold and crease again, and tuck the corners into the pockets.



5 Use a pencil or your finger to help you. Turn your paper over and repeat step 4. Press down firmly on all the creases one more time.



6 Find the opening in the top. Blow air into the opening to make your origami planet expand into a box. Make seven more.

7 Attach a piece of wire or string to each planet, then tie them to a hanger in order of distance from the sun. You are now ready to hang your mobile.



Variation

YOU CAN MAKE DIFFERENT SIZES USING LARGER OR SMALLER SQUARES OF PAPER. DECORATE YOUR PLANETS WITH PAINT, OR GLUE ON SEQUINS, FEATHERS, OR OTHER DECORATIONS. YOU COULD ALSO ADD STAR SHAPES. PAINT OR COVER YOUR HANGER IN YARN. INSTEAD OF ORIGAMI SHAPES, MAKE PLANETS OUT OF TISSUE PAPER STUFFED WITH COTTON BALLS. SECURE THE TOP OF EACH WITH STRING.