

Paper Crane: A Symbol of Peace

by Justin Moy



You can make more than an airplane out of paper. You can make a box, a flower, or even a bird. You can make these things by origami. Origami is a Japanese word that means folding paper. The world's largest origami museum is the Nippon Origami Museum in Japan. It has more than 100,000 origami pieces.

Another place to see a lot of origami pieces is in Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, Japan. The origami pieces there are all the same kind. They are paper cranes.

In World War II in August 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. A girl named Sadako Sasaki was a survivor. Nine years later, she became sick. She had cancer.

There is a Japanese legend. It says that if you fold 1,000 paper cranes, you can make a wish. Then the wish would come true. Sadako wished to keep living, so she started to fold paper cranes. Her family and classmates helped. They folded 356 cranes, and Sadako folded 644 cranes. Together, they completed 1,000 paper cranes in 1955.

However, Sadako died in October 1955. Many people heard about Sadako's story. Today, the paper crane is a symbol of peace. Every year a lot of people from all over the world visit Hiroshima and leave paper cranes.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is origami?

- A. building museums dedicated to peace
- B. folding paper cranes to help wishes come true
- C. folding paper into different shapes

2. The text describes a sequence of events in Sadako Sasaki's life. What happened to Sadako nine years after the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan?

- A. She became sick with cancer.
- B. She finished making 1,000 paper cranes.
- C. She died.

3. Read these sentences from the text.

Another place to see a lot of origami pieces is in Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, Japan. The origami pieces there are all the same kind. They are paper cranes.

[. . .]

Every year a lot of people from all over the world visit Hiroshima and leave paper cranes.

Based on these sentences, what can you conclude about the paper cranes in Peace Memorial Park?

- A. They were only made by Sadako.
- B. They were only made by Sadako's family and classmates.
- C. They were made by people all over the world.

4. Why might people be inspired by Sadako Sasaki's story?

- A. She got sick from cancer after the United States dropped a bomb on Hiroshima during World War II.
- B. She survived the atomic bomb attack in Hiroshima. Years later, she tried hard to survive her cancer and did not give up.
- C. She folded many paper cranes and believed the legend that says if you fold 1,000 paper cranes, you can make a wish that will come true.

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. Sadako Sasaki was a young girl who got cancer after the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. She folded paper cranes so that she could keep living. Today, paper cranes are a symbol of peace.
- B. In World War II in August 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. A girl named Sadako Sasaki was a survivor. Nine years later, she became sick. She had cancer.
- C. You can make more than an airplane out of paper. You can make a box, a flower, or even a bird. You can make these things by origami. Origami is a Japanese word that means folding paper.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is a meaning of the word **symbol**?

- A. something that stands for something else
- B. a normal way of operation or behavior
- C. a publication with pictures and articles

2. What is another meaning of the word **symbol**?

- A. a sign that stands for a certain quantity or quality
- B. a magnifier of the image of small objects
- C. an instance of a disease or poor health

Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.

3. _____ are pictures that stand for real things.

- A. symbolizes
- B. symbolic
- C. symbol
- D. symbolize
- E. symbols
- F. symbolism
- G. symbolized

4. Each of these flags is a _____ that stands for another thing.

- A. symbolizes
- B. symbolic
- C. symbol
- D. symbolize
- E. symbols
- F. symbolism
- G. symbolized

5. All the noise was _____ of the sadness.

- A. symbolizes
- B. symbolic
- C. symbol
- D. symbolize
- E. symbols
- F. symbolism
- G. symbolized

6. The goddess of love was _____ by a red rose.

- A. symbolizes
- B. symbolic
- C. symbol
- D. symbolize
- E. symbols
- F. symbolism
- G. symbolized

7. The use of symbols in literature is called _____.

- A. symbolizes
- B. symbolic
- C. symbol
- D. symbolize
- E. symbols
- F. symbolism
- G. symbolized

8. The torch is said to _____ the desire to achieve enlightenment.

- A. symbolizes
- B. symbolic
- C. symbol
- D. symbolize
- E. symbols
- F. symbolism
- G. symbolized

9. Today, it _____ the desire to achieve freedom.

- A. symbolizes
- B. symbolic
- C. symbol
- D. symbolize
- E. symbols
- F. symbolism
- G. symbolized

10. Please write your own sentence using the word **symbol**.

11. What would you like to remember about the meaning of the word **symbol** so that you can use it when you write or speak?