

Be an Origami Naturalist: Mourning Dove

Ages: 6 and up

Duration: 15–30 minutes

Materials needed: One sheet of paper, 4 to 8 inches square; drawing materials.

Introduction: The summertime Hudson Valley is full of life. If you can't get out into nature and explore in person (or even if you can), why not learn about a local creature by making one of your very own? With some plain paper, and crayons or pencils, you can use the art of origami to make your own beautiful animal.

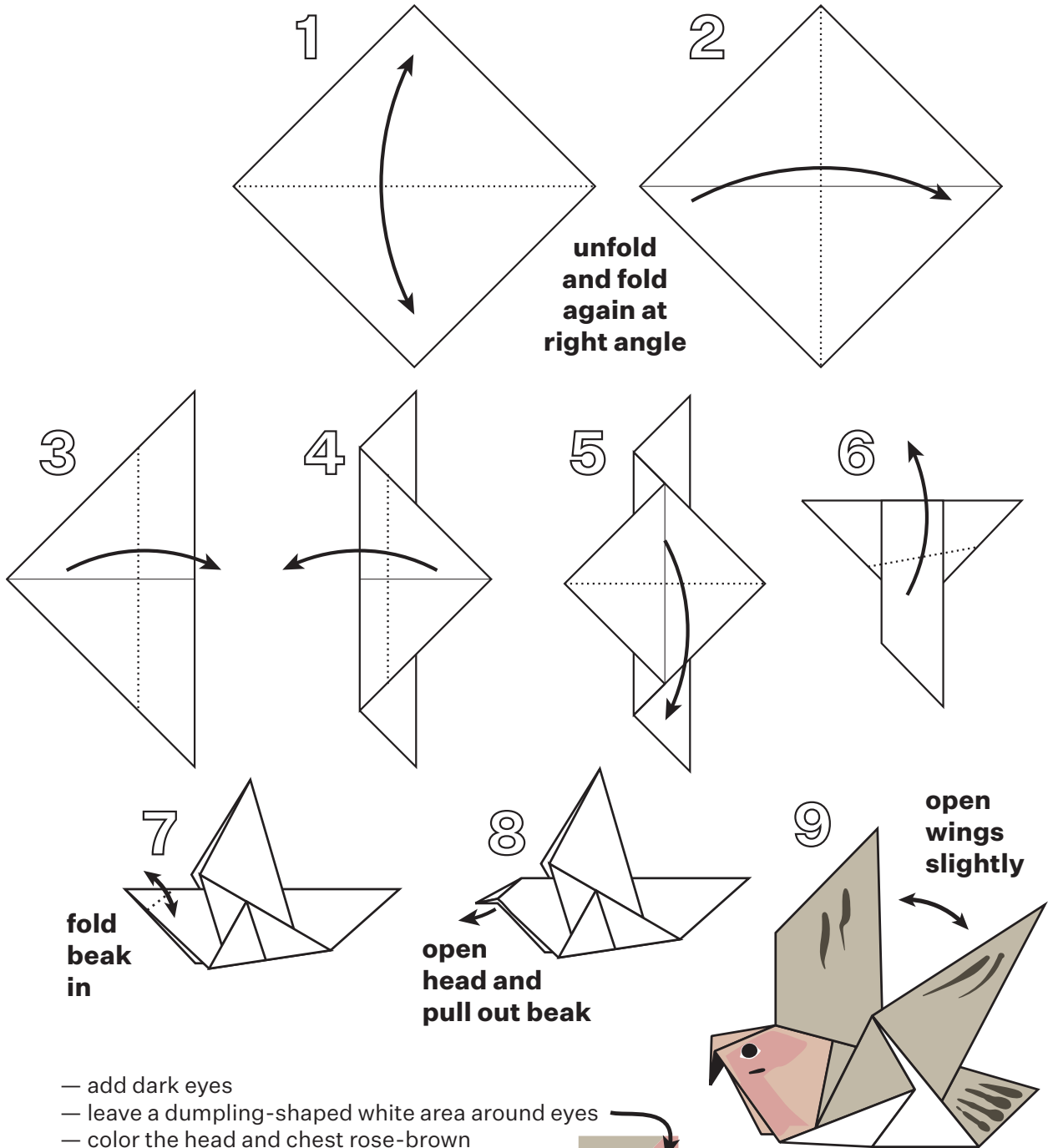
For this activity, you'll be making an origami bird. By coloring and adding the right features, you can turn your bird into a mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), a relative of the pigeon which, unlike the pigeon, is native to North America. Follow the illustrated instructions on the following page, or visit hrm.org/science-projects for a step-by-step video.

Mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*): The “mourning” in this bird's name refers to its call: a sad “coo-ing” lament that rises on the last note. Mourning doves are found all over the continent, and there are about as many mourning doves in North America as there are citizens of the United States—more than 330 million. They are commonly seen on the ground, picking up seeds, and the small pebbles they swallow to help them digest those seeds. Mourning doves have a more streamlined shape than their pigeon cousins, with smaller and more delicate heads, feathers that are mostly rose-gray, and dark tail feathers.

Share: Post a photo of your origami creation to Instagram, add the #OrigamiNaturalist and #MuseumFromHome hashtags, and tag @HudsonRiverMuseum.



Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*)



**unfold
and fold
again at
right angle**

**fold
beak
in**

**open
head and
pull out beak**

**open
wings
slightly**

- add dark eyes
- leave a dumpling-shaped white area around eyes
- color the head and chest rose-brown
- color the wings and back light brown
- add black feathers on the wings and tail
- draw a small dark spot under each eye
- color beak black (make sure beak is thin, not thick like a hawk's)

