

Theme Cycle: Our Universe, Our Place

Kick-off Activity

Sequence

After the interdiction of the Coversheet

Explanation

This activity ties into the coversheet quote “We’re made of star-stuff. We are a way for the cosmos to know itself.” by Carl Sagan. In the activity the students will construct a star out of the kite paper and put a symbol/picture on the white paper to glue in the center of the star that represents their purpose or future goal in life (Connection to the 7 Gateways - Meaning and Purpose). After the construction is complete, the students will write their names on the index cards and a short explanation of their symbol. The stars and index cards will be mounted (taped) to the windows for the duration of the cycle.

List of Materials

- 8 squares of kite paper
- Glue Stick
- White Paper
- Archival Quality Markers
- Index cards
- Scissors
- Folding Directions – At the end

Spatial Needs

- Need a ring of chairs for doing the Coversheet, Kick-off activity directions and post activity discussion.
- Need tables for students to work at for folding, gluing and writing.

Procedure

Original directions can be found at Wee Folk Art [1]

- 1) Before students arrive set up circle of chairs and put eight different color pieces of kite paper, an archival quality pen, index card, glue stick, and white paper at each table work station. Scissors can be a center location.
- 2) After completing the Coversheet, tell them that they will be making a kite star:
 - a. “You will be making a kite star. At the center of your star, you will place a picture/symbol of what your current purpose or future goal is”
 - b. “At your workstation you will find 8 pieces of kite paper, a white index card, pen, glue stick and white paper and direction for folding.”
 - c. “First you need to assemble your star. After completion set aside to dry.
 - d. While the star is drying:

1. Draw a picture/symbol that represents your purpose future goal on the white paper. Cut it out and glue to the center of the star. Then use the index card to write your name and a few words describing the meaning of your symbol.
- e. "We will then regroup and share with the group what you put inside your star."
- f. "At the end all the stars will be mounted to the windows."
- 3) After the brief description, send the students to work on their stars.
- 4) Allow up to 30 minutes for working. Based on student skill level, some students may need an assist in getting through the first kite.
- 5) After they have completed their stars and index cards, have them come back to the circle of chairs.
- 6) Ask each student to listen and share. After each student shares, have them mount to the windows.

AOP/Discussion questions

- Did the activity go well?
- Were there obstacles to the activity?
- How do you feel putting an image of your future goal in the center of the star after reading Carl Sagan's words "We're made of star-stuff. We are a way for the cosmos to know itself."?

References

- [1] W. F. ART, "Kite Paper Window Stars," 3 08 2010. [Online]. Available: <https://weefolkart.com/kite-paper-window-stars/>. [Accessed 22 07 2021].

Directions For Making Stars – For Students

Based on the directions from Wee Folk Art [1]

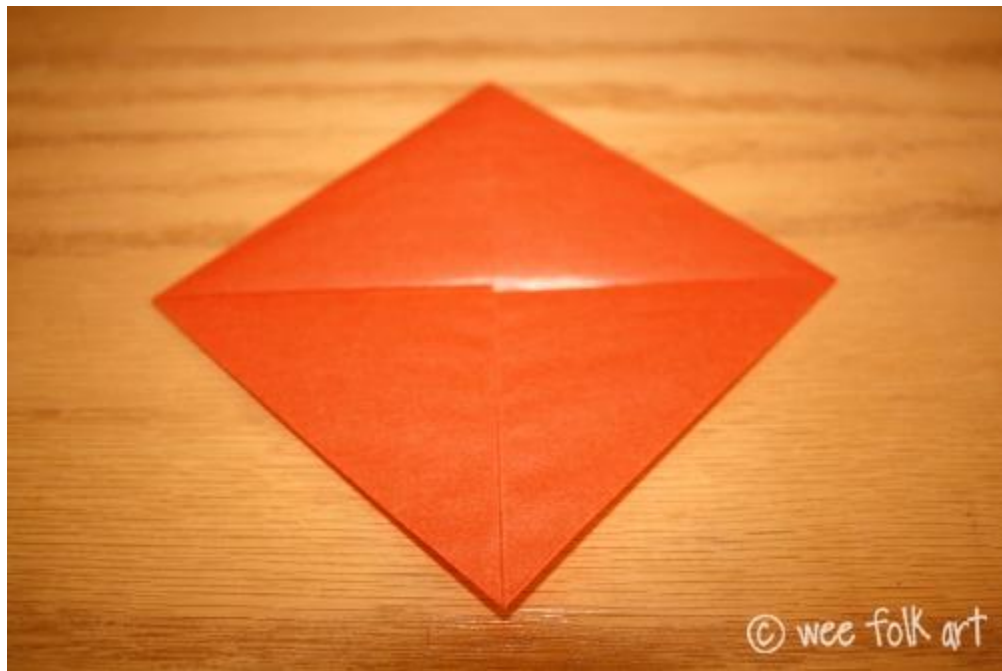
Part 1: Make Star

Tip- ALL CREASES NEED TO BE SHARP. Slide the side of a marker along each crease to make it sharp.

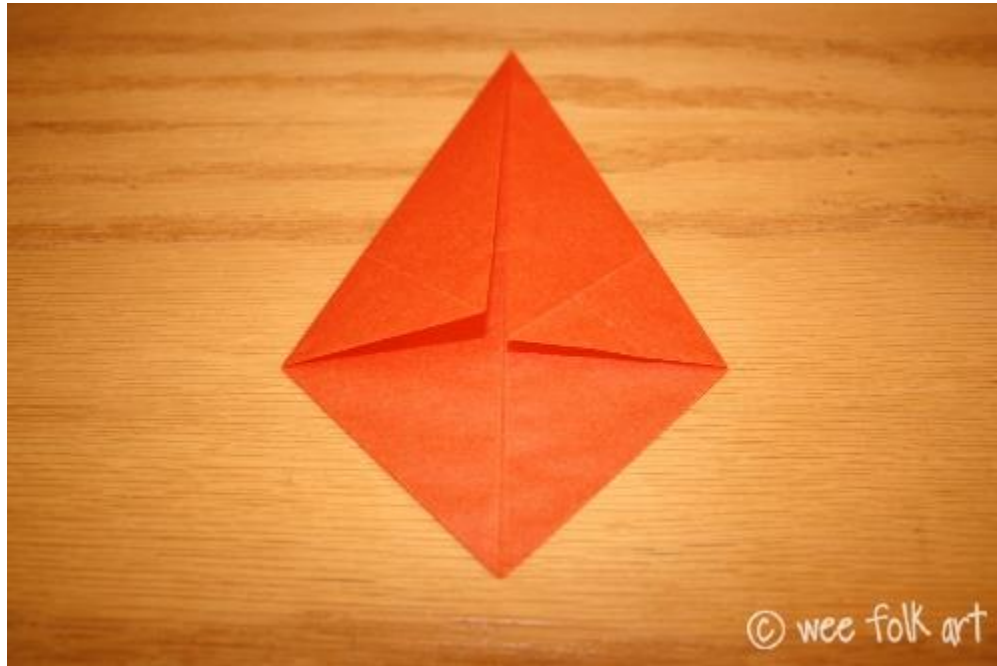
- 1) Start with one piece of paper. Fold the paper in half. Open the paper. Fold in half in the other direction.



- 2) Fold all four corners into the center of the paper. It will be a square.



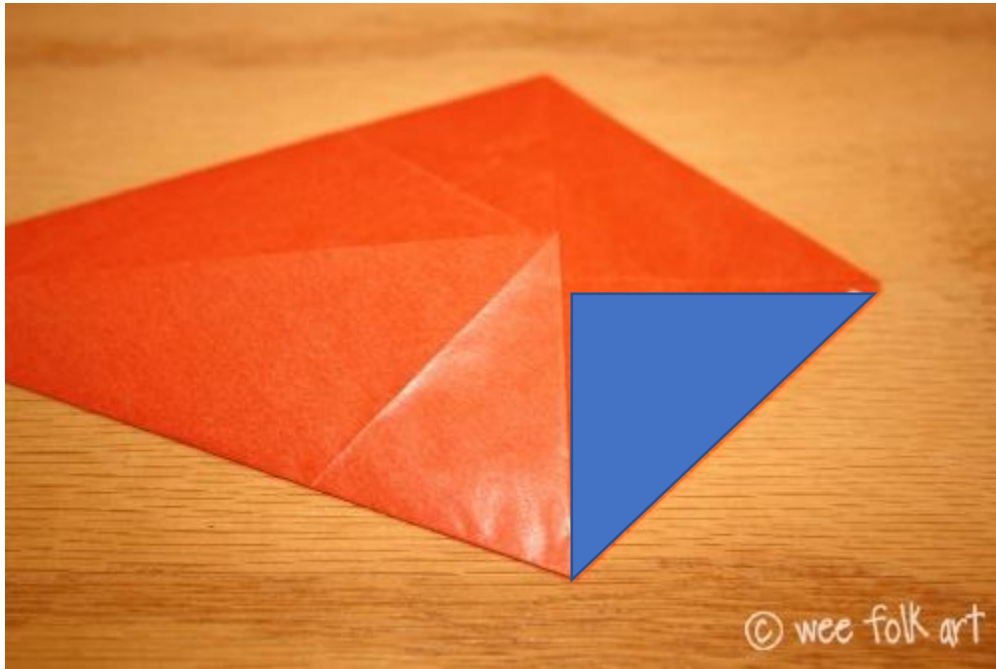
- 3) Rotate so that a corner is pointing at your belly. With the flaps up, fold the left corner in so the outside edge of the paper is against the center fold line. Repeat for the right side. It will create a sharp star point.



- 4) Repeat to make a total of 8.



- 5) Visualize the order you would like your star points to be arranged and do a practice layout.
- 6) Turn the smooth side up and the folded sides down. Pick one as a to start the star. Turn a 2nd one over (folds now up) Then turn your 2nd piece over. Place apply glue to the area shade in blue of the second piece.



- 7) Place the triangle with the glue on top of the first star point. Match points carefully.



- 8) Continue until there are seven.



- 9) Glue the 8th star point on in the same way. The 8th star point will be laying on top of the 1st star point.



- 10) Lift the 1st star point and slip the edge of the 8th star point under. Raise the edge of the 1st piece, and put glue where they overlap. Press firmly.



- 11) Turn over the star and glue down lost flaps.
12) Allow to dry.

Part 2:

- 1) Draw a picture or symbol on your white paper.
- 2) Cut out a piece of white paper that is about the size of the center of the star.
- 3) Carefully glue to the center of the star.

Part 3:

- 1) On the index card, write your name and a brief description of your picture/symbol.
- 2) Quietly take your set back in the circle with your star.