



VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION GUIDE

Workshop: *If I Were A Bird...*

Teaching Artist: Allie Spicer

Learn how to sculpt a 3D clay bird with paper wings that incorporates global flags. You will also learn about bird migration and female aviators Bessie Coleman and Amelia Earhart.



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OBJECTIVES:

You will learn:

- Basic paper folding and tearing methods (specifically, the accordion fold) as well as basic hand-building skills in clay
- Where countries are located in relation to the your current location, how to read a map/how to orientate yourself on a map with visual cues, and how flags are used as symbols
- How to create a personal sculpture that represents your identity or interests

MATERIALS:

- 2 packs of white Model Magic clay
- a piece of 8.5x11” printer paper
- Markers, various colors
- Access to the Internet, Google Maps



DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING Methods

Instruction is provided in text and video formats, available in both Spanish and English.

You may also work by printing this art-making guide.

YouTube can automatically create closed captions.

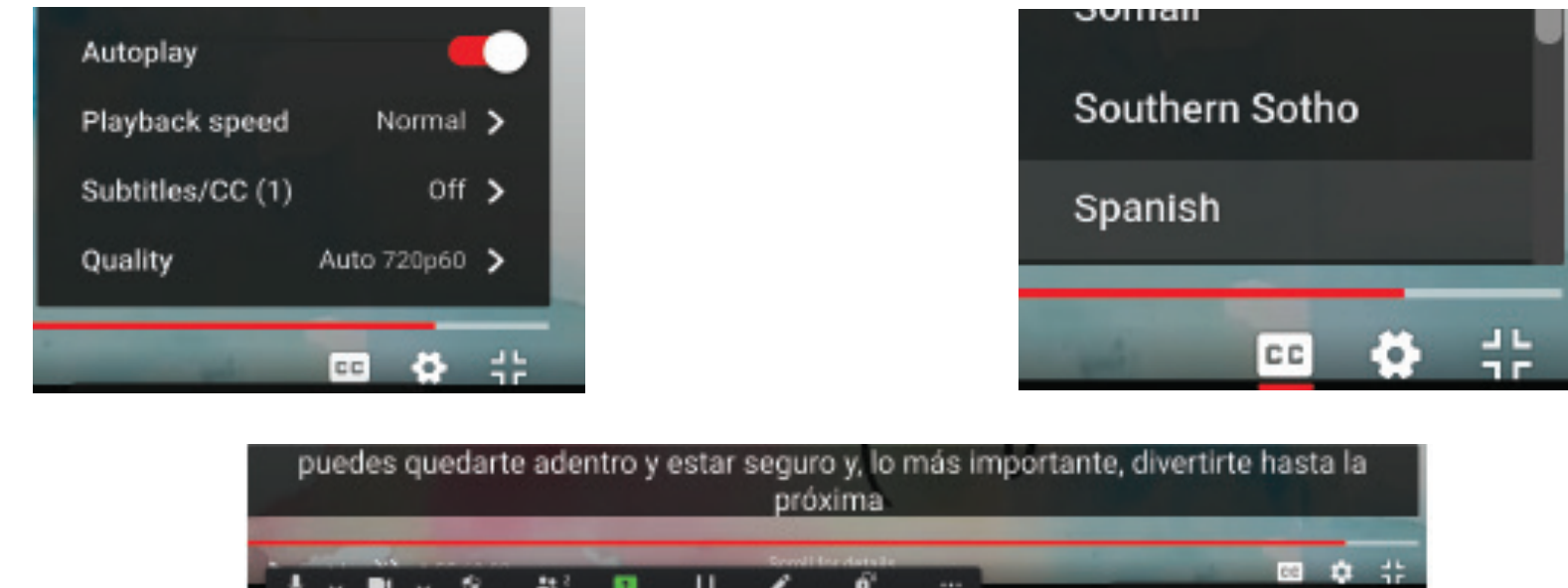


Click the [CC] button near the lower right corner of the viewer frame.

Please note: captions are generated by algorithms, so their quality may vary.

Workshop Duration: 30-45 Minutes | ALL LEVELS

A variety of language subtitles are available for each video.



- **This activity can be split into three parts: 1) drawing a flag, 2) making wings, and 3) sculpting a bird's body.** You can be successful completing these parts individually or completing all three. You may really be engaged by just the flag-making portion and complete only this step—that's okay!
- **You can complete this workshop by using one hand or two hands.**
- **If you have sensory sensitivities, you may draw a bird or wear gloves while working with clay.**



BACKGROUND/RESOURCES

You will be introduced to these artists, art histories, movements and/or concepts:

Accordion fold: A basic paper-folding method that involves making a series of alternating folds to create multiple panels of a similar size.

Bessie Coleman and Amelia Earhart: *Amelia Earhart* was the first American female pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. Her contemporary, *Bessie Coleman*, was the first American Black/Native American female pilot in the United States. Bessie migrated from the south to Chicago, was five years older than Amelia, and was the daughter of a sharecropper. She does not receive the same attention as Amelia Earhart in American history books.

Migration: The act of moving from one place or region to another.

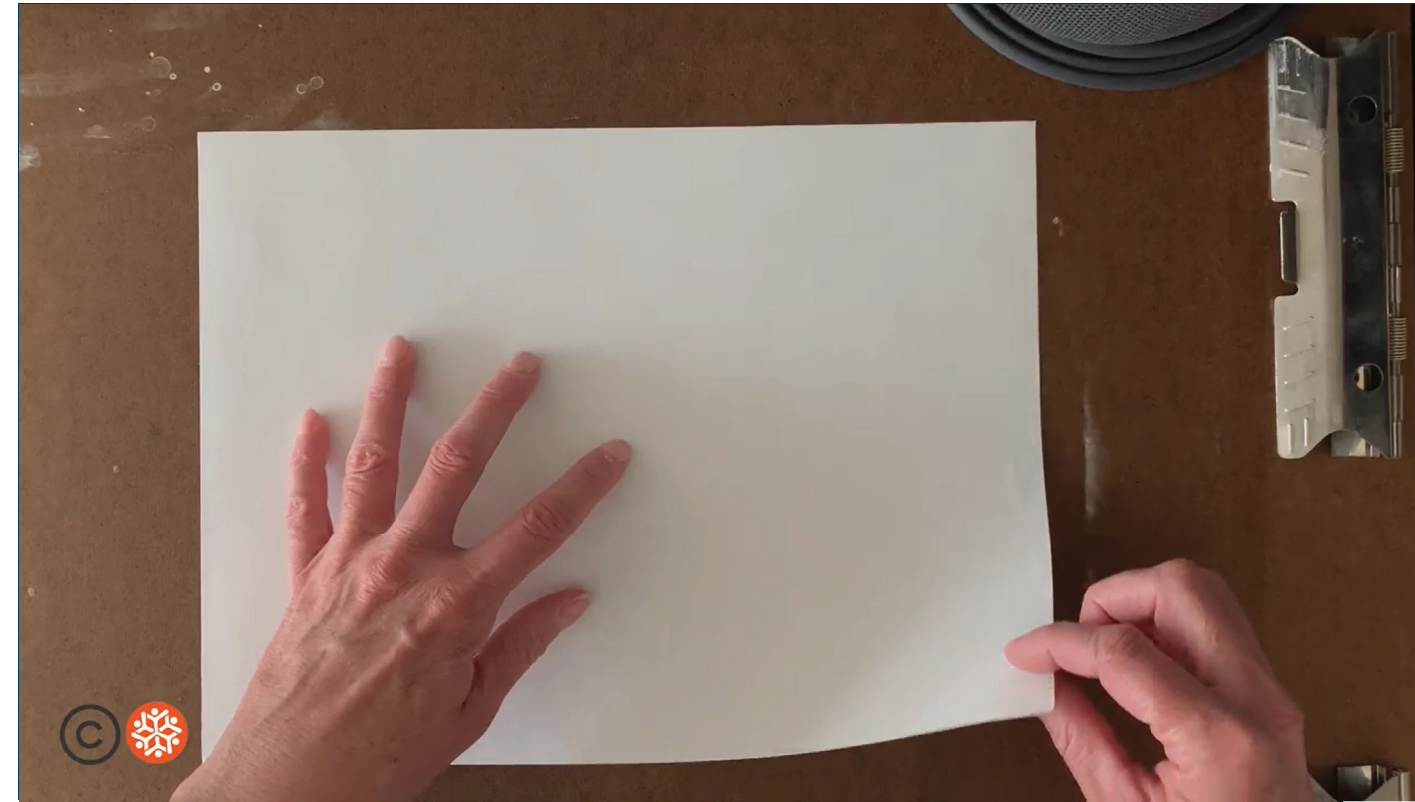
Sculpture: Making representational or abstract forms using clay (or other materials like wood, stone, or metal).



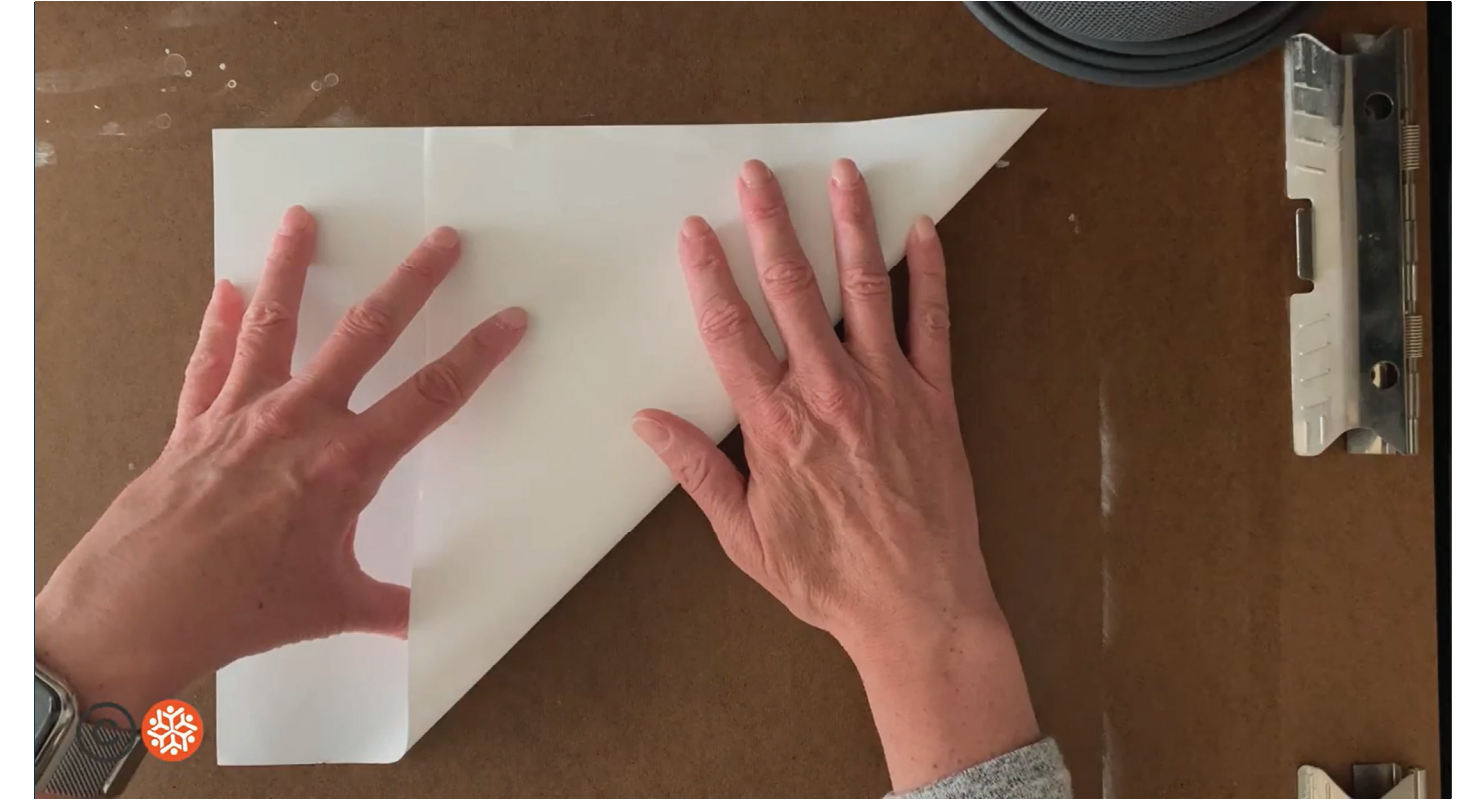
INSTRUCTION:



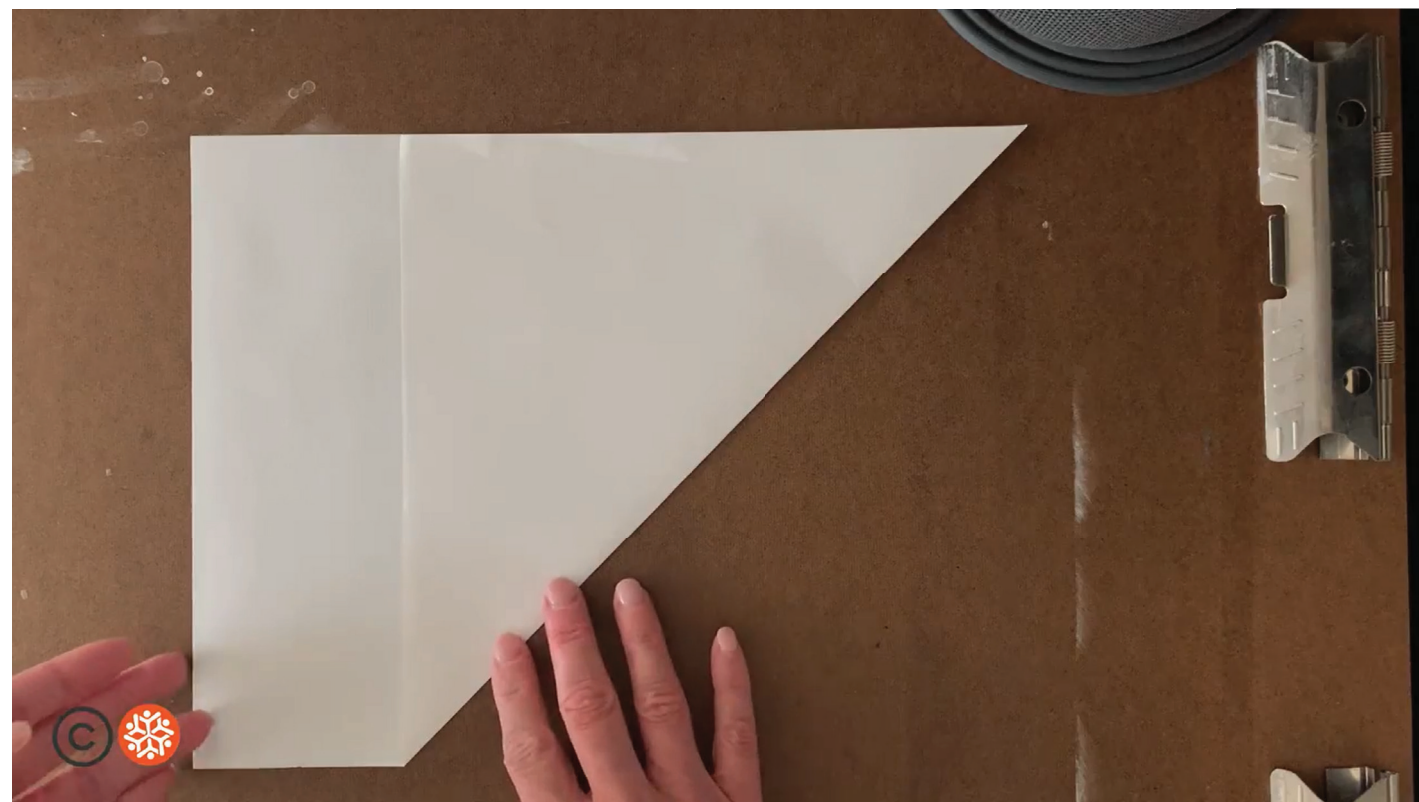
Position your 8.5" x 11" paper in a landscape position, with the long side on top.



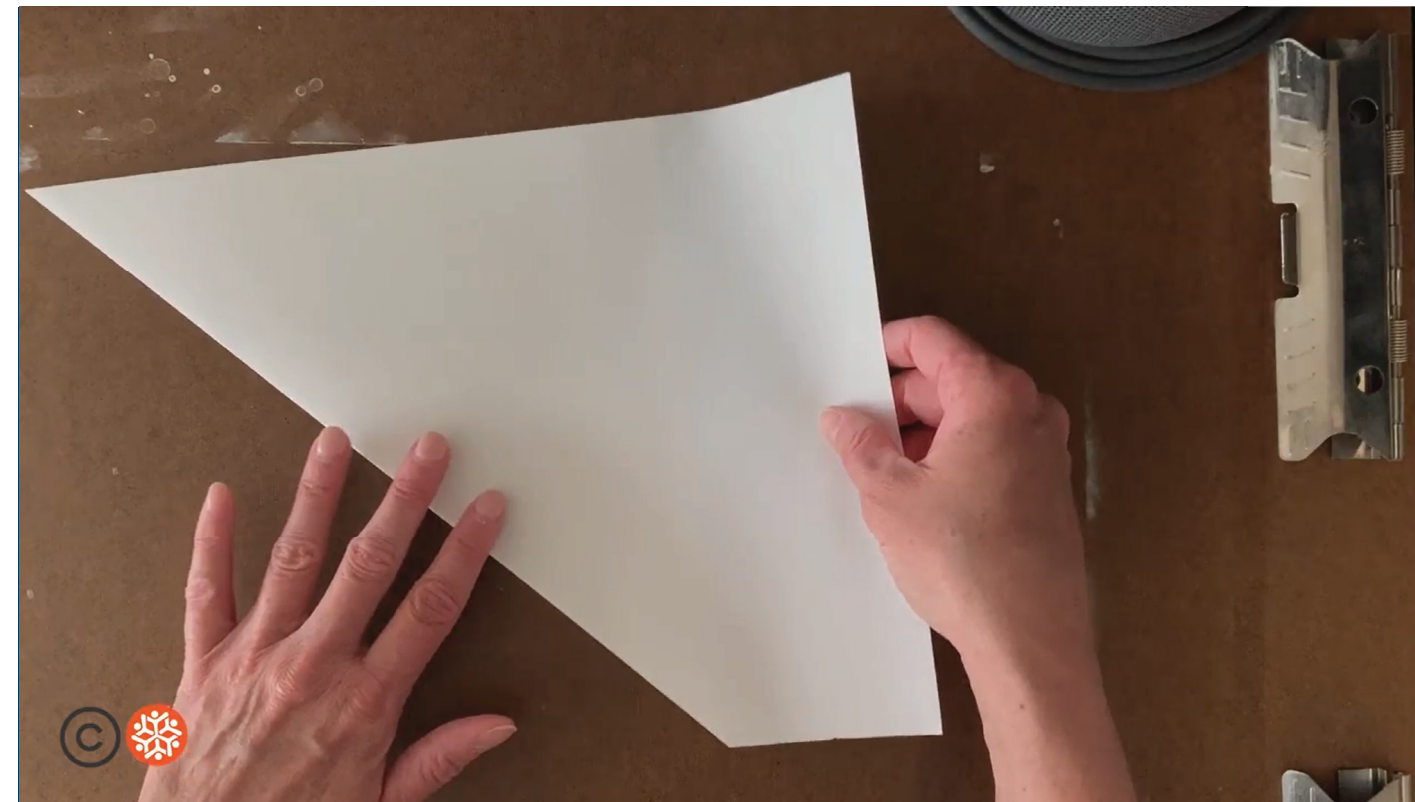
Hold your paper from the bottom right corner of the 11" (long) side.



Fold your paper in a diagonal to line up the top edge of your paper with the 11" (long) right side.



When the edges are lined up precisely, make a crease in the diagonal fold. Make sure your top edge stays lined up with the right side of the paper.



Turn your paper over and make a crease along the fold again, this time backward.



Fold the right side of the paper over so that it forms a rectangle shape. Make sure to crease the paper along the rectangle shape very well.



INSTRUCTION CONTINUED:



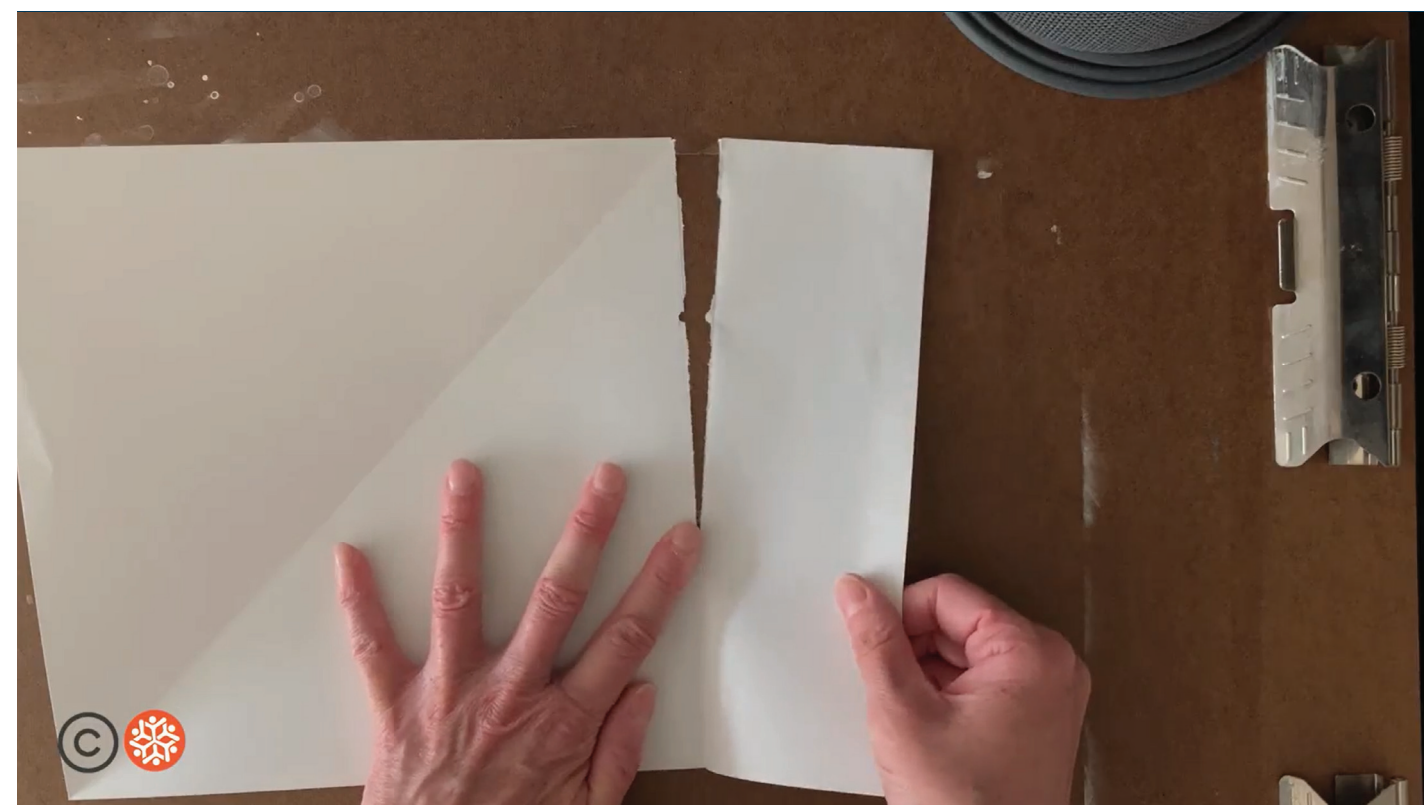
Unfold your paper to its original size.



Now, crease the rectangle shape along the other side, folding from the right to the left.



Unfold your paper to its original size.



Slowly begin to tear the two shapes apart on the rectangle crease fold. You will be left with a square-shaped paper!

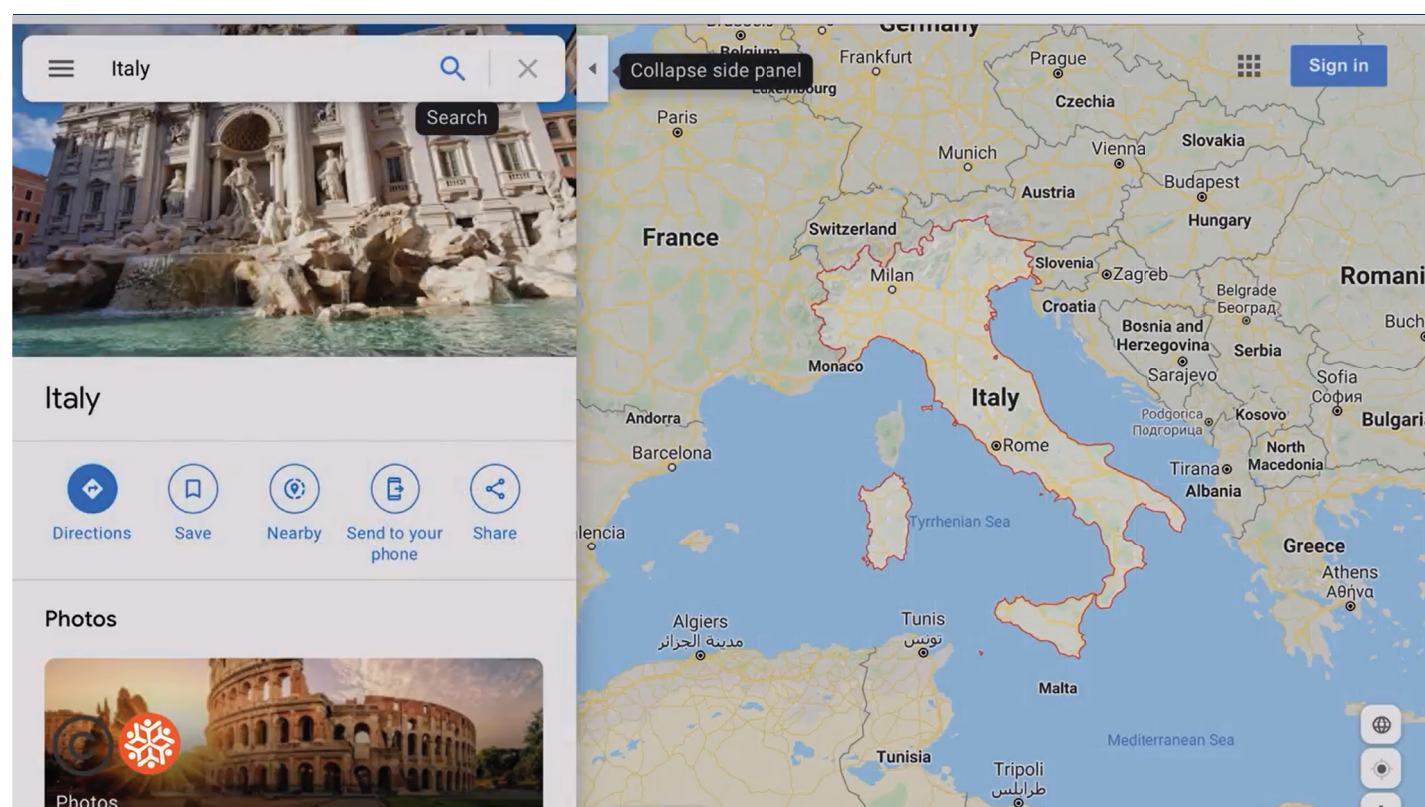


Choose one country to research: One you would like to visit, where your family is from, or a country you believe has a cool looking flag.

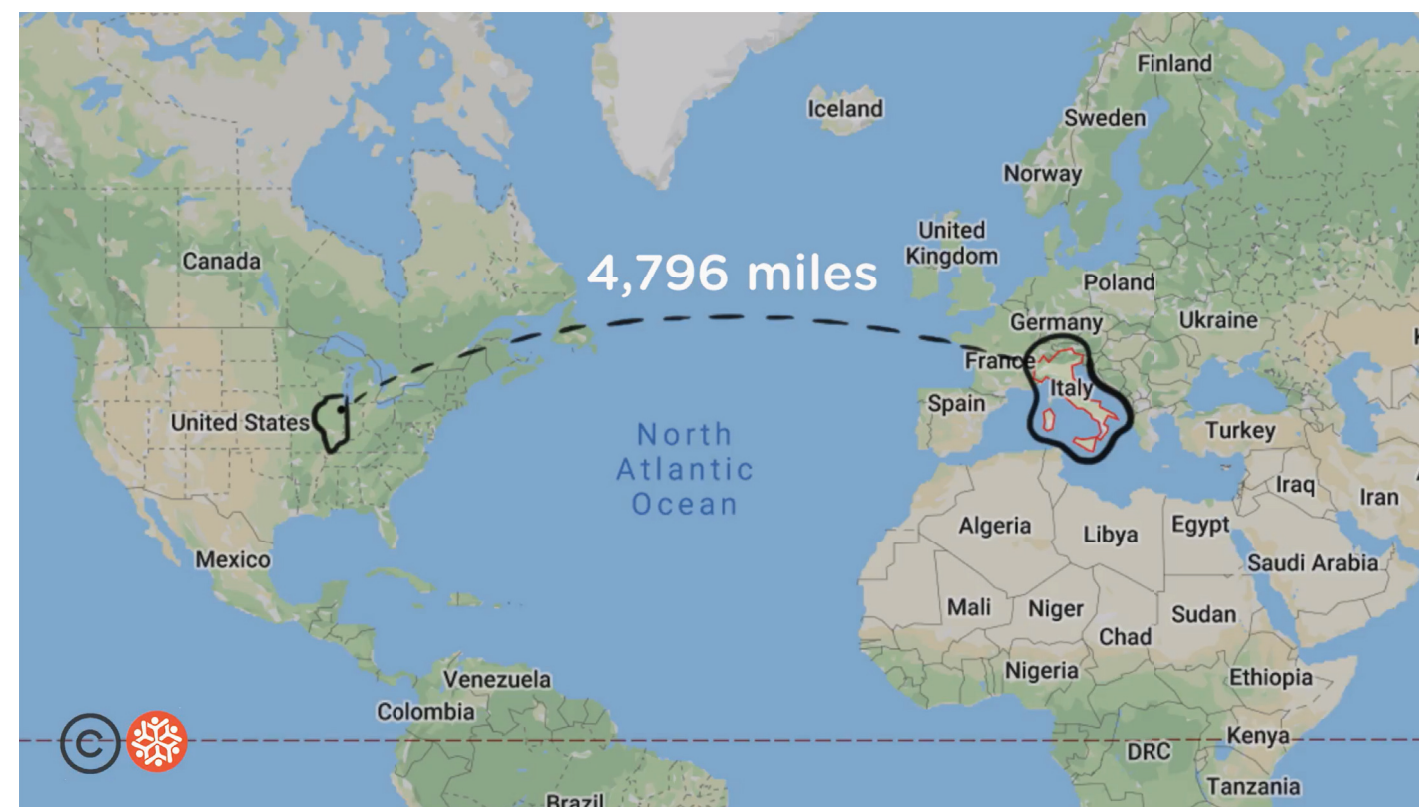


Use Google to look up the flag for the country you have chosen. I have chosen Italy, because that is where my grandmother is from.

INSTRUCTION CONTINUED:



Next, use Google Maps to find the location of the country you chose.



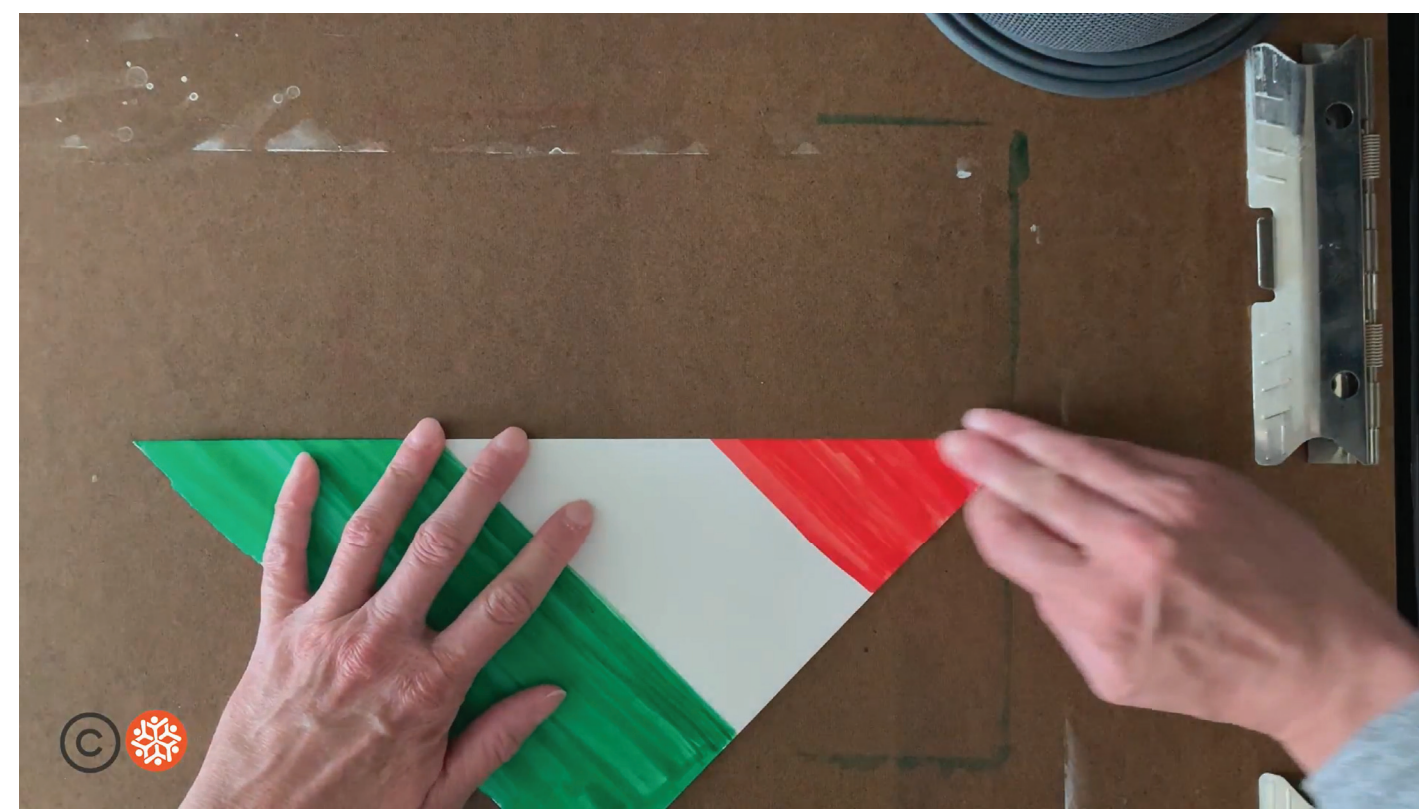
Zoom out so you can see where you are in relation to your country. Ask Google for the distance, in miles, from your country of choice to Chicago.



After finding your country of choice, recreate your country's flag on your piece of paper using markers.



Fold your paper into a right triangle along the original fold you first created to transform your paper into a square.



Flip your paper over and on this same fold, create a backward fold, giving it another good crease with your finger or with a marker.

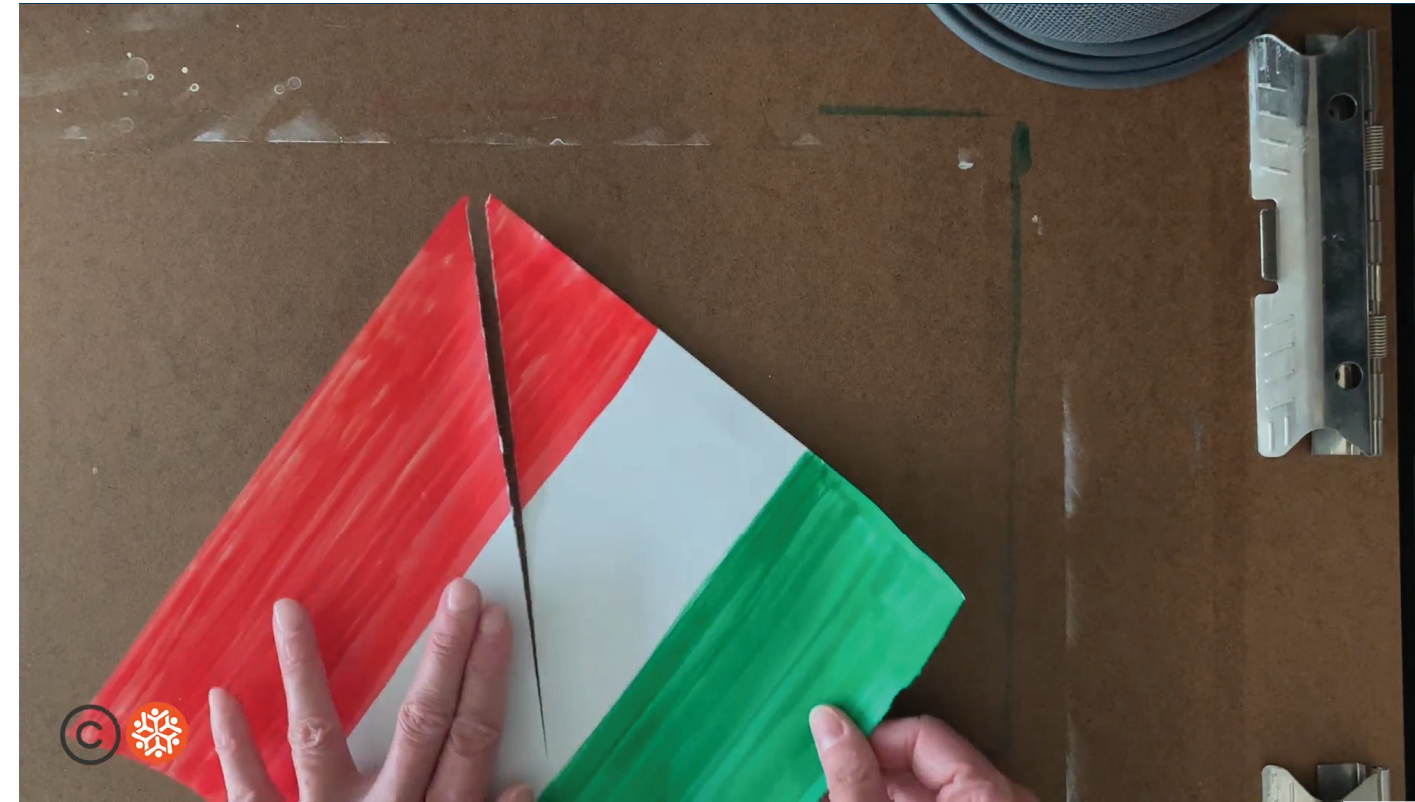


Open up the paper and rotate it so it looks like a diamond.

INSTRUCTION CONTINUED:



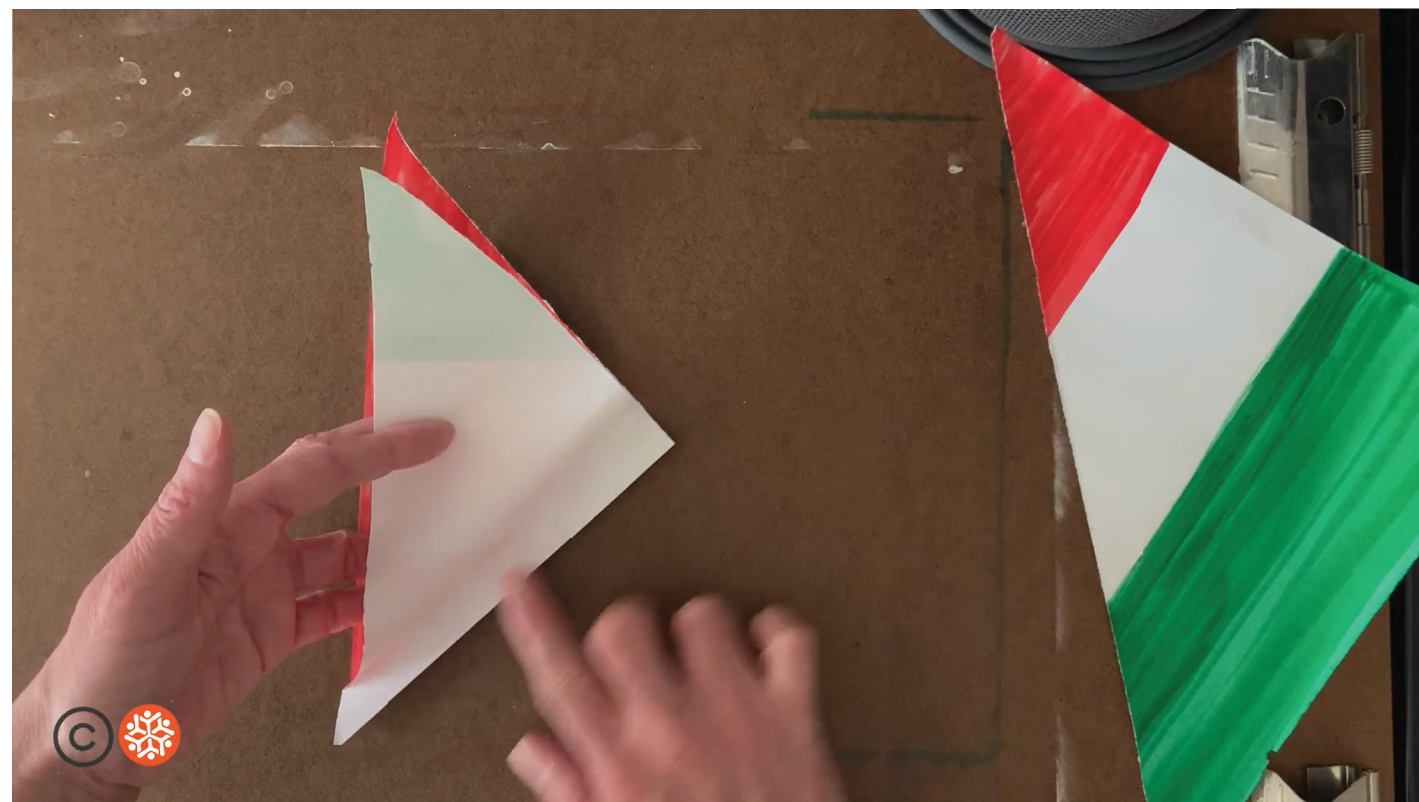
From the top of the diamond, and using the table surface, hold down one side of the piece of paper with one hand.



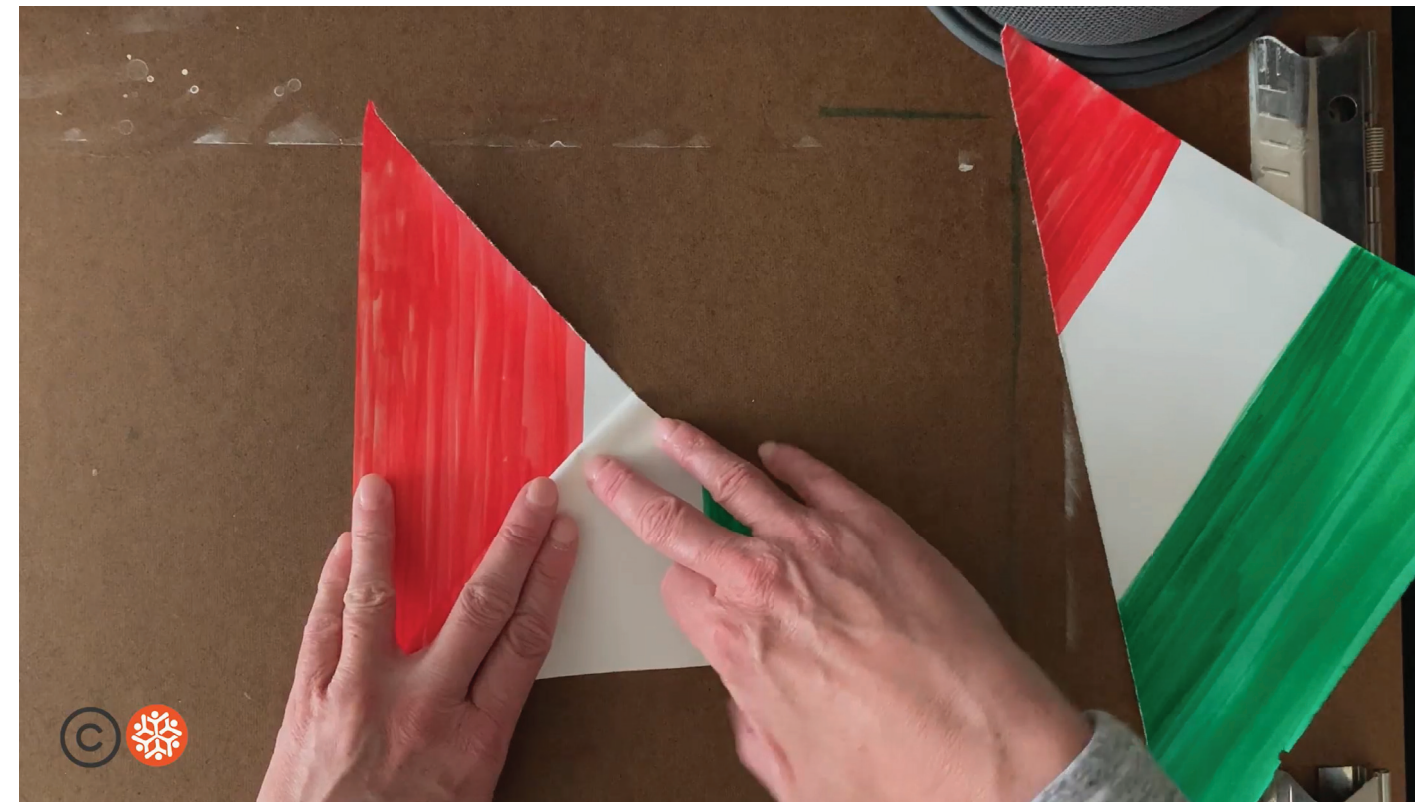
Hold down the other side with your other hand and slowly begin to separate the two sides by tearing it down the middle fold line.



Set one triangle aside. Rotate the first triangle so the widest point is facing to the right. You will be folding as if you are creating a fan.



Now fold this triangle in half, giving it a good crease, using your finger or a marker.



This will look like a taco. Keeping your taco folded, take the top side of the taco and fold it towards you, leaving half an inch between your fold and the bottom edge of your taco.

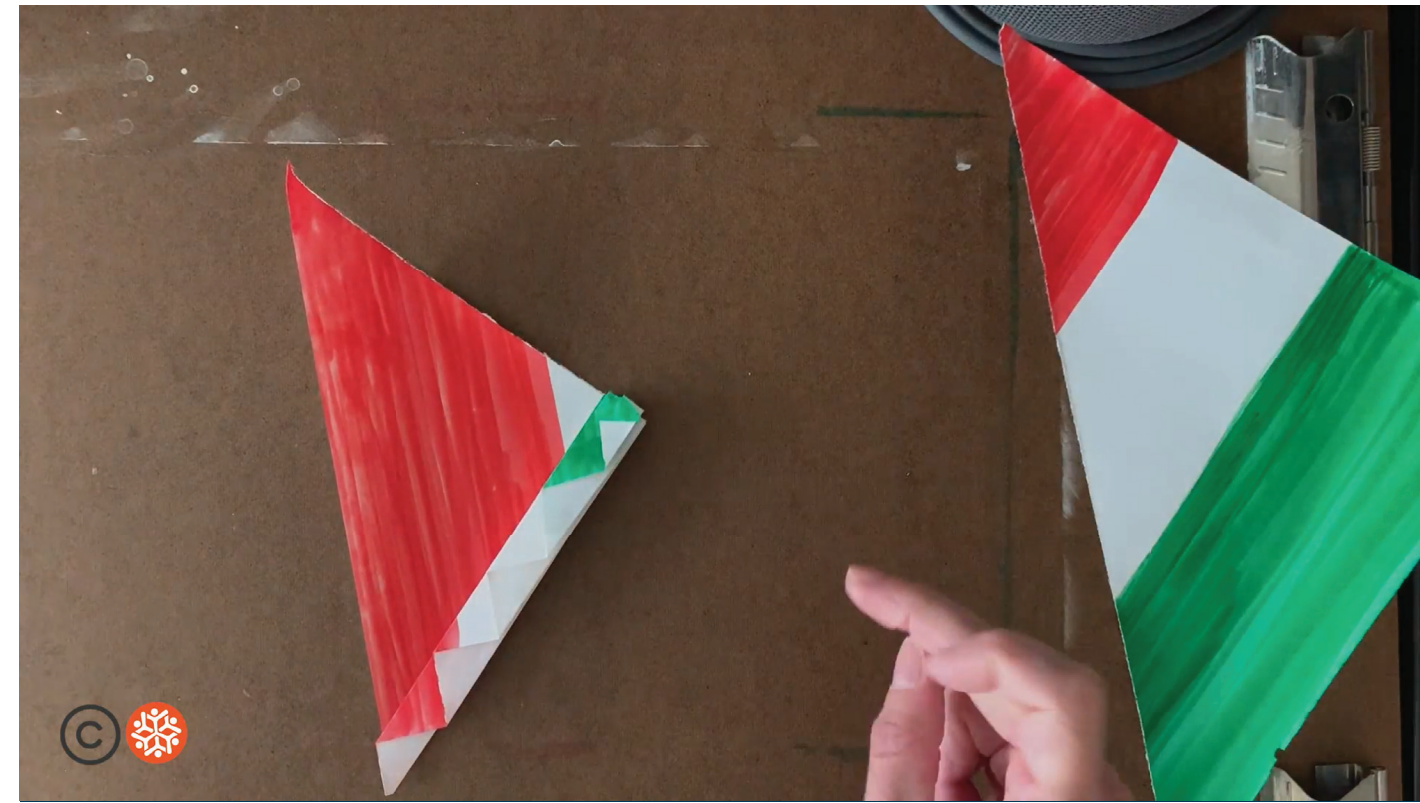


Fold this back up in the same way, leaving half inch between the bottom and top side of your taco.

INSTRUCTION CONTINUED:



Continue folding in this back and forth motion, keeping the right side of your folds aligned.



You are now creating an **accordion fold** until you run out of paper.



Grab your second piece of paper and repeat the process. You will end up with two accordion-folded triangles. These are your wings. Set both of these wings aside for now.



Open two packages of Model Magic clay and combine them by kneading them together.



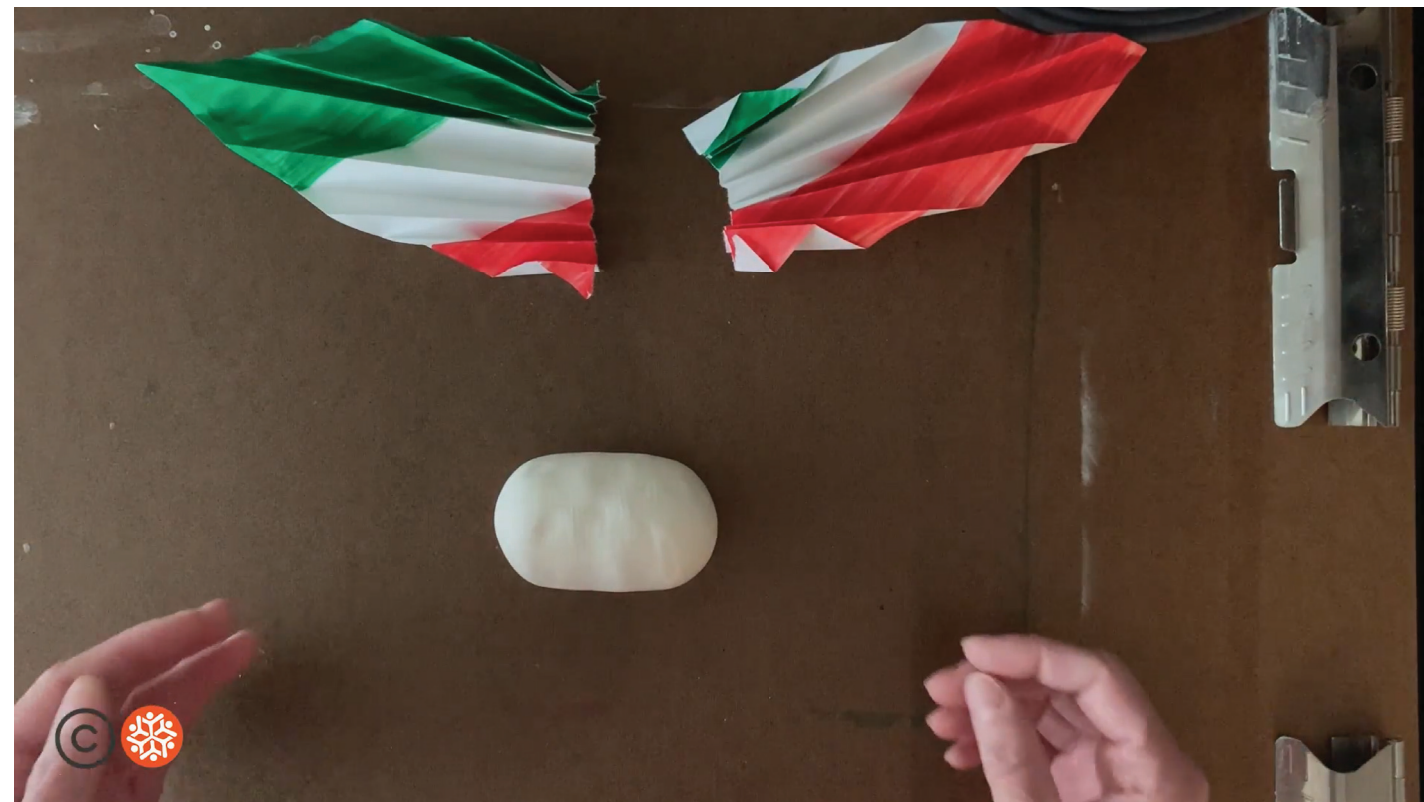
Put the entire clump of clay in one hand (or between one hand and a flat surface) and with the other hand move your sphere in a clockwise fashion, or circular manner.



Applying pressure, use the same circular motion to knead your clay, this time in a counter-clockwise fashion. Continue to apply pressure until a round ball forms.



INSTRUCTION CONTINUED:



With your hands, or one hand and the flat surface, roll your sphere into an egg shape or something that looks like a large Tic Tac (the candy).



Holding your Tic Tac horizontally, begin to gently pull out one end of the Tic Tac, so it begins to look like an egg. One end of the egg will be fat and on end thin.



Use your fingers to squeeze the skinny part of the head to make the bird's neck and head.



Use your fingers to pinch the wider part of your egg into the shape of a bird's tail.



Use your fingers to pinch a small beak out from the head. This is the bird body base.



Pick up one of your accordion folded triangles, squeezing it together so it looks like a compressed accordion or fan. Keep this pinched together.



INSTRUCTION CONTINUED:



With the straight edge, insert all the pinched folds into the right side of your bird all at once. Make sure the wing is inserted deep enough.



The clay will act as glue to keep your wings attached. Pinch the clay around the edges of the wings for security.



Repeat the process on the left side of your bird.



If you notice the head or tail of your bird starting to fall or droop, create a ball with the foil clay wrappers from your Model Magic packaging and gently place underneath the head or tail end until the sculpture is completely dry.



Let your bird **sculpture** dry for 24 hours before moving it.



Now it's time to decorate your bird with markers. Think about what details you would like to add: shapes, colors, patterns, realistic and/or unrealistic bird characteristics.



INSTRUCTION CONTINUED:



Congratulations, you've created a clay bird! Time to celebrate!
I'm very proud of all your work and look forward to making
more art with you.

LEARNING STANDARDS

This workshop is aligned to the following state and national anchor standards. It can be differentiated for learners at every grade level. (For arts performance standard alignments at specific grade levels, feel free to email programs@snowcityarts.org.)

ILLINOIS ARTS LEARNING STANDARDS

Anchor Standards: Creating

- **CR1.** Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
- **CR2.** Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standards: Connecting

- **CN10.** Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.
- **CN11.** Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

English Language Arts: College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards

Language

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.6.** Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when encountering an unknown term important to comprehension or expression.

Standards for Mathematical Practice

- **SMP.4.** Model with mathematics.
- **SMP.7.** Look for and make use of structure.





If you are interested in **receiving school credit** for the work you have completed in this workshop or if you would like to **have your artwork displayed** in a Snow City Arts exhibition space or virtual gallery, please visit <https://snowcityarts.org/consent-releases/>

Contact us at programs@snowcityarts.org if you have questions, would like to offer feedback, or would like to continue working with us virtually.





Workshop Duration: 30-45 Minutes | ALL LEVELS



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Snow City Arts inspires and educates children and youth in hospitals through the arts.

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