

The Origami crane: symbol of peace

*“I will write peace on your wings
and you will fly all over the world...”*

~ Sadako Sasaki

SADAKO SASAKI was two years old when the atomic bomb was dropped on her city, Hiroshima, Japan, by the United States. Many thousands of people were killed by the bomb, including Sadako’s grandmother, but Sadako escaped the bomb.

She grew to be one of the best runners in her class. One day, when she was eleven years old, she fell ill during a race. She thought she would get better, but instead she got worse, and within a year she was diagnosed with leukemia, a cancer that came from the radiation from the bomb.

In the hospital, Sadako began to fold peace cranes—the crane is the symbol of long life in Japan, and a legend promised that anyone who folded a thousand cranes would be granted one wish.

Some report that Sadako folded 1,000 cranes; others say she did not reach her goal before leukemia killed her.

Her classmates were very sad when Sadako died, and they decided to create a peace park in Hiroshima in her honor—today there is a statue of Sadako holding a peace crane high in the air, and thousands of schoolchildren visit the park bringing peace cranes in memory of Sadako.

The origami peace crane has become an international symbol of peace, adopted by the movement to abolish all nuclear weapons, like the one that caused Sadako’s illness and killed so many people.

If you google “origami crane,” you will find many diagrams showing you how to fold a crane. They are all difficult to understand; it is much easier to learn from someone who shows you and explains as you go. This [youtube video](#) is straightforward—and you can pause and rewind when you need to!