

Paper Fighter Jet

Supplies:

- 1 piece of 8.5 x 11-inch paper
- Star stickers
- Optional: a pen or craft stick for smoothing creases



Steps:

	<p>Step 1: Fold the paper in half with the long edges together. Press down firmly with your fingers to make a crease. (Tip: Use the side of a fingernail, a craft stick, or a smooth pen to make creasing easier.) Unfold the paper and lay it flat.</p>
	<p>Step 2: Fold the paper in half again, with the short edges together.</p>
	<p>Step 3: Rotate the paper so that the fold is at the top.</p>
	<p>Step 4: Fold in half again, this time from left to right, like a little book. Open up the last fold that was made.</p>

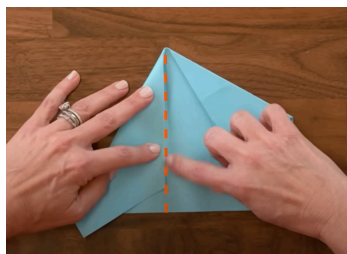




Step 5: Rotate the paper so that the crease is on the left. Then, fold the bottom edge of the paper up to meet the center crease. Fold the top edge downward to meet the center line, and press to crease. Open the last two folds, keeping the remaining fold at the top.



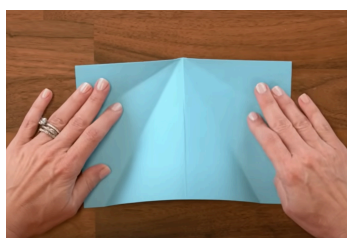
Step 6: Fold the top left corner down to create a point at the top of the center crease. When folded down, the top corner should point down to the left-hand crease. Repeat on the right side.



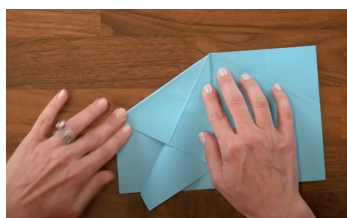
Step 7: Fold in the top left corner again, covering the previous fold. The top edge that is folded down should line up with the center crease. Repeat on the opposite side.



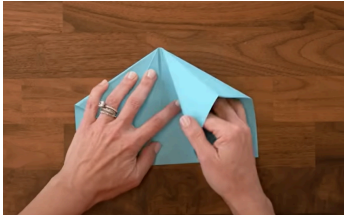
Step 8: At this point, the paper should resemble a paper airplane or a triangle with pointed tails.



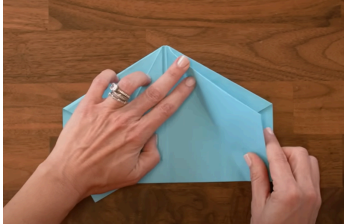
Step 9: Open the folds making a rectangle again.



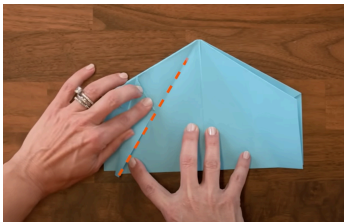
Step 10: Gently slide four fingers, palm up, between the two layers of paper. Slowly rotate the fingers toward the bottom of the paper, turning the palm downward. This should slowly open up the folds and reveal a triangle shape with a crease down the middle. Smooth out the triangle so that it lies flat.



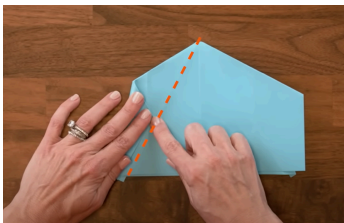
Step 11: Repeat on the other side.



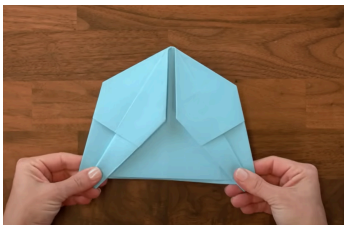
Step 12: Grasp the bottom middle corner and fold it upward. Press down the fold so that it lines up with the top edge. Repeat on the other side. The jet should now look flat on top with no folds.



Step 13: Fold the top left corner down about halfway, matching the left edge of the paper with the left diagonal crease. Repeat on the opposite side.









Step 14: Flip over the paper and repeat the previous two folds, matching the edges with the diagonal creases.



Step 15: Fold over the left and right corners so that their top edges also match with the center crease, and smooth the project so that it lies down flat.



Step 16: Flip the project back over, and repeat step 15, folding down the sides so that they also meet the center crease. Smooth and crease the resulting triangle.

	<p>Step 17: Pick up the triangle by its bottom corners and fold it in half.</p>
	<p>Step 18: Lay the plane flat on the table. Fold up one of the bottom corners halfway, forming a wing. Flip the plane over and fold up the other corner to make the other wing.</p>
	<p>Step 19: Slide one finger into the corner of one wing, between two layers, and fold up the corner. Press firmly to crease. Flip over the plane and fold up the corner of the opposite wing, pressing firmly to crease.</p>
	<p>Step 20: Fold up the corner. Press firmly to crease. Flip over the plane and fold up the corner of the opposite wing, pressing firmly to crease.</p>
	<p>Step 21: Slide a hand under the wings and grasp the center fold of the jet. Use your fingers to open and smooth out the wings, making the vertical folds on the wings stand up straight.</p>
	<p>Step 22: Use the star stickers to decorate the jet. Have fun!</p>

Why does America have so many different kinds of fighter jets? Technology is always changing and getting better. Just like someone might buy a new computer that works faster and smarter than their old one, America invests in smarter and faster fighter jets. America is a global leader, and we want to have the best technology so that we are prepared and ready to protect our freedom. That is why we continue to build the most powerful fighter jets we can.

Fun Facts:

- The United States began making fighter jets because air combat became a critical element of warfare during World War I, which took place between 1914 and 1918. After that war, air combat became common, and the United States decided to be prepared. In order to protect our freedom, we began building fighter jets and committed to continually improving them.
- The Air Force's F-15 dogfights and attacks the ground. It is the most successful fighter jet ever, with over 100 victories and no losses in combat. Some say the F-15 is the best fighter jet of all time.
- The F-35 is an extremely smart jet that can be used by the United States Navy, Air Force, and Marines. It is essentially a huge computer with wings. It is 14 feet tall and 51 feet long, has a wingspan of 35 feet, and can fly 1,200 miles per hour. There is even a type of F-35 that can take off vertically. It also includes stealth technology and spy capabilities. The first prototype of the F-35 flew in 2006. It is very costly to make, requiring between \$78-\$101 million per jet.

Extension Activity

- Air Force Drill: Get a friend, set a goal line, and race two fighter jets side by side. Whoever's plane reaches the goal first is the winner. The winner gets to sign the other person's airplane!