

# how to make a paper fortune teller

How to make a paper fortune teller is a delightful and engaging craft that has entertained children and adults alike for generations. Often referred to as a cootie catcher, this simple origami creation can provide hours of fun. Not only can it be a fun game, but it also serves as a unique way to express creativity and imagination. In this article, we will explore the history of the paper fortune teller, the materials required, a step-by-step guide to creating one, and some fun ideas for what to write inside.

## History of the Paper Fortune Teller

The paper fortune teller has roots that stretch back several centuries. It is believed to have originated in ancient China, where paper was first invented. The concept of folding paper into intricate designs has been a part of many cultures, but the fortune teller specifically became popular in the Western world during the 20th century.

- Cultural Significance: In many cultures, fortune-telling has been an ancient practice, often used as a means to gain insight into the future or to make decisions. The paper fortune teller is a playful adaptation of these practices, allowing children to engage in a form of divination without the seriousness of traditional methods.
- Evolution: Over time, the paper fortune teller has evolved from being a simple children's game to a creative outlet for teenagers and adults, often incorporating themes from popular culture, personal interests, and humor.

## Materials Needed

Creating a paper fortune teller requires minimal materials and can be accomplished with items that are likely already present around the home. Here's what you'll need:

### 1. Paper:

- A square piece of paper, ideally 8.5 x 8.5 inches, but any square will work. You can use colored paper, patterned paper, or even plain printer paper.

### 2. Writing Instruments:

- Pens, pencils, or markers in various colors for personalization.

### 3. Ruler (optional):

- For measuring and ensuring your paper is square if you're cutting it from a larger sheet.

### 4. Scissors (optional):

- Only necessary if you need to cut your paper to create a square.

### 5. Decorative Materials (optional):

- Stickers, glitter, washi tape, or other embellishments to make your fortune teller unique.

# Step-by-Step Guide to Make a Paper Fortune Teller

Now that you have gathered your materials, let's dive into how to make a paper fortune teller. Follow these steps carefully, and you'll have your very own cootie catcher in no time!

## Step 1: Prepare Your Paper

1. If your paper is not already square, use a ruler to measure and cut a square piece from a rectangular sheet.
2. Fold the paper diagonally in half, then unfold it to create a crease. Repeat this step with the opposite corners. You should now have an "X" crease pattern on your paper.

## Step 2: Create the Initial Folds

1. Take each corner of the square paper and fold it toward the center point where the creases intersect. This will create a smaller square shape.
2. Flip the paper over so the folds are on the bottom.
3. Again, fold each corner into the center. You should now have a much smaller square with layered folds.

## Step 3: Create the Fortune Teller Shape

1. Once you have the smaller square, fold it in half diagonally to create a triangle shape, then unfold it.
2. Do this with the opposite corners to create an "X" pattern again.
3. Now, hold the paper by pinching the corners so that you can push the inner points together. This action will form the classic fortune teller shape.
4. Adjust the corners as necessary to ensure that it holds its shape.

## Step 4: Add Your Personal Touches

1. Choose four colors for the outer sections of your fortune teller. Use your pens or markers to write a number or color in each of the four sections.
2. For the inner flaps, choose fortunes or fun activities to write inside. Here are some ideas:
  - "You will have a surprise today!"
  - "Dance like nobody is watching."
  - "A new adventure awaits you."
  - "You will make a new friend soon."

## Step 5: Decorate Your Fortune Teller

1. Use stickers, glitter, or other decorative items to embellish the outer flaps.
2. Encourage creativity! You can draw designs, add quotes, or personalize it for specific friends or occasions.

## How to Play with Your Paper Fortune Teller

Once you have created your paper fortune teller, it's time to share it with friends and family. Here's how to play:

1. Choose a Player: Start with one person being the "fortune teller" while others ask questions or request fortunes.
2. Ask for a Color or Number: The player asks someone to choose a color or a number from the outer flaps.
3. Count and Fold: The fortune teller is manipulated by counting out the letters in the chosen color or number, folding it open and closed as the player counts.
4. Reveal the Fortune: After counting, the player will have a final choice to pick one of the inner flaps, revealing the fortune written inside.

## Creative Variations of the Paper Fortune Teller

The traditional paper fortune teller can be modified in various ways to keep the game fresh and exciting. Here are some creative ideas:

1. Themed Fortune Tellers:
  - Create fortune tellers based on specific themes like holidays, birthdays, or favorite movies.
  - For Halloween, write spooky fortunes; for birthdays, you can include fun birthday messages or activities.
2. Interactive Challenges:
  - Instead of fortunes, create a fortune teller with fun challenges or dares for friends to complete.
  - Examples include "Do a silly dance" or "Tell a joke."
3. Educational Twist:
  - Use the fortune teller to help with learning. Write math problems, vocabulary words, or history facts inside.
  - This can be a fun way for kids to engage with educational content.
4. Personalized Messages:
  - Make a fortune teller filled with compliments, motivational quotes, or personal notes that can lift someone's spirits.

# Conclusion

Creating a paper fortune teller is not only a fun and easy craft but also a fantastic way to engage with friends and family. By following the steps outlined above, you can craft your own unique cootie catcher, filled with personalized fortunes or playful challenges. This simple origami project taps into creativity, fosters social interaction, and can even serve as an educational tool. So gather your materials, unleash your imagination, and enjoy the process of making and sharing your very own paper fortune teller!

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What materials do I need to make a paper fortune teller?

You will need a square piece of paper, scissors, and a pen or marker to write fortunes.

### How do I cut the paper to make a fortune teller?

Start with a square sheet of paper. If you have a rectangular sheet, fold it diagonally to form a triangle, cut off the excess paper, and unfold it to get a square.

### What are the steps to fold a paper fortune teller?

1. Fold the square in half diagonally both ways to create creases. 2. Fold the corners into the center. 3. Flip it over and fold the new corners into the center again.

### How do I add fortunes to my paper fortune teller?

Open up the flaps and write different fortunes or questions under each flap. You can also write numbers or colors on the outside.

### Can I decorate my paper fortune teller?

Yes! You can decorate it with drawings, stickers, or colored markers to personalize it.

### How do I use a paper fortune teller?

Ask someone to pick a color or a number, then open and close the fortune teller based on their choice. Finally, have them pick a flap to reveal their fortune.

### Is there a specific size for the paper needed?

Any square paper will work, but a size of 6x6 inches is commonly used for easy handling.

# **Are there any online tutorials for making paper fortune tellers?**

Yes, there are many video tutorials and step-by-step guides available online that demonstrate how to make and use paper fortune tellers.

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