



PELICAN PARTY

PELICAN ANATOMY AND BIOLOGY



Watch the “Pelican Trivia! Learn about the new resident pelicans at CMA” video to learn all about Clearwater Marine Aquarium's four resident pelicans and some fun pelican facts.

For instructors, parents, or guardians:

Lesson learning objectives: By the end of this lesson, students will learn basic pelican anatomy and apply number ordering skills to size comparisons among the eight pelican species.

1. Introduce the topic:

This lesson will cover basic pelican anatomy and biology. First have your student(s) watch the video. Tell them to pay attention the questions and answers in the video as well as the parts where Bill talks about pelican anatomy.

2. Meet our resident pelicans:

Ricky: This pelican was one of two birds that played the role of Rufus in both Dolphin Tale movies. Ricky was born and raised in Hollywood and appeared in a few other movies before her final role in Dolphin Tale 2. CMA adopted her after the films. Ricky is around 15 years old and is a female pelican.

Skylar: Skylar is the other female pelican adopted from another local animal care center. She is around 11 years old and is the smallest pelican at the aquarium. Skylar is inquisitive but shy.

Tyndall: Tyndall and Matthew, the two male pelicans at CMA were adopted from the Houston Zoo. He is around 6 years old.

Matthew: This is the largest and most bold pelican at the aquarium. He was adopted with Tyndall and is also around 6 years old.

**Learn more about our resident pelicans by visiting our website:
seewinter.com/animals/permanent-residents/pelicans**

3. Review:

Review the following questions from the video with your student(s) before the learning activity. Use the additional information for expanded learning.

- How many species of pelicans are there in the world?
 - Answer: 8
 - The eight pelican species are the Spot-Billed pelican, the Peruvian pelican, the Brown pelican, the Pink-Backed pelican, the Australian pelican, the Dalmatian pelican, the Great White pelican, and the American White pelican.
- True or false, Pelicans have hollow bones.
 - Answer: True
 - Most bird bones aren't completely hollow. Instead they are porous like a sponge. This makes them light enough to fly in the air.
- What is a pelican's beak made of?
 - Answer: Keratin
 - Keratin is the same material that makes up our hair and fingernails.
- True or false, Great White Pelicans are the largest pelican species.
 - Answer: False. They are the 2nd largest. The Dalmatian pelican is the largest pelican species.
 - Florida is home to Brown pelicans.



- What is the hook at the end of a pelican's beak used for?
 - Answer: Preening which means to comb and clean their feathers.
 - Preening is what allows feathers to be in perfect form for flying.
- What is the biggest danger to wild pelicans?
 - Answer: Human activity and habitat destruction.
 - Pelicans often hang out in the same areas that humans do such as docks. When people feed wild pelicans, they can be injured from fish bones and fishing hooks. Pelicans also nest in coastal areas so when people build homes and businesses in these areas, the pelicans lose their nesting grounds.

4. Put your student(s) to the test:

Use the wingspan comparison activity to order the pelicans from largest to smallest.



PELICANS OF THE WORLD



Use the picture below to learn about each pelican's size. Rank the pelican pictures from 1 to 8 in the blank circle in each picture.



1 is the smallest pelican and 8 is the largest pelican.

HOW DO YOU

MEASURE UP?
TO *Rufus*

CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM

- Brown Pelican – 6.5 feet
- American White Pelican – 9 feet
- Australian Pelican – 8 to 11 feet
- Dalmatian Pelican – 10 feet
- Great White Pelican – 7 to 12 feet
- Peruvian Pelican – 7.5 feet
- Pink-backed Pelican – 8 feet
- Spot-Billed Pelican – 4 to 5 feet

PELICANS OF THE WORLD



Spot-Billed pelican



Great White pelican



American White pelican



Peruvian pelican

PELICANS OF THE WORLD



Dalmatian pelican



Australian pelican



Pink-Backed pelican

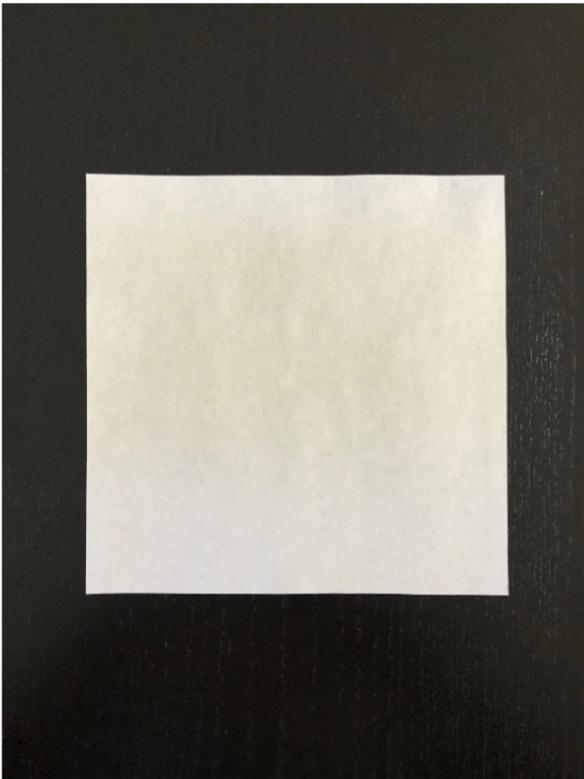


Brown pelican

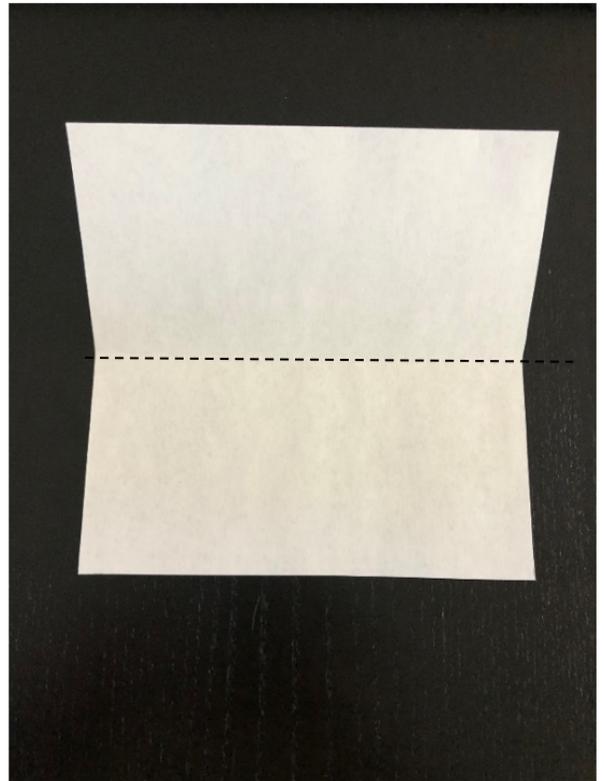
PELICAN PARTY ORIGAMI



Use the instructions below to make your own pelican!

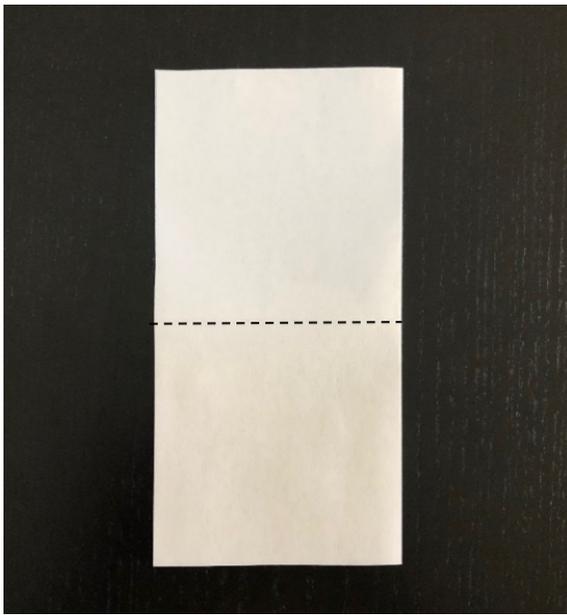


Cut a piece of paper into a square. This example is 6 inches x 6 inches.

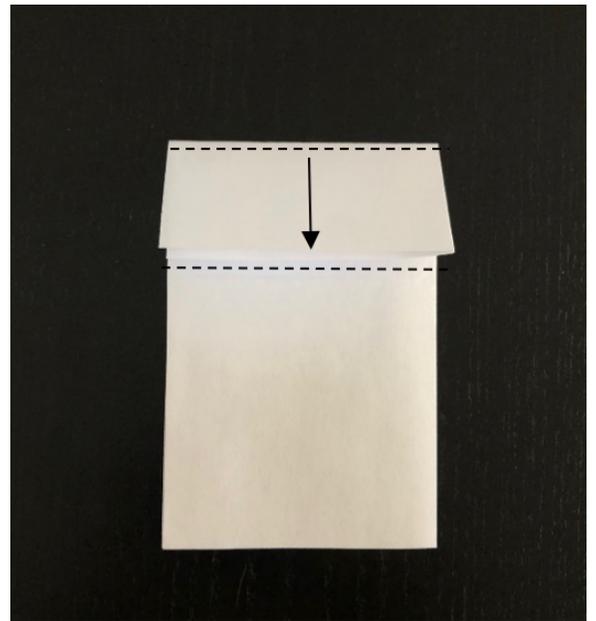


Fold paper in half "hamburger" style and unfold.

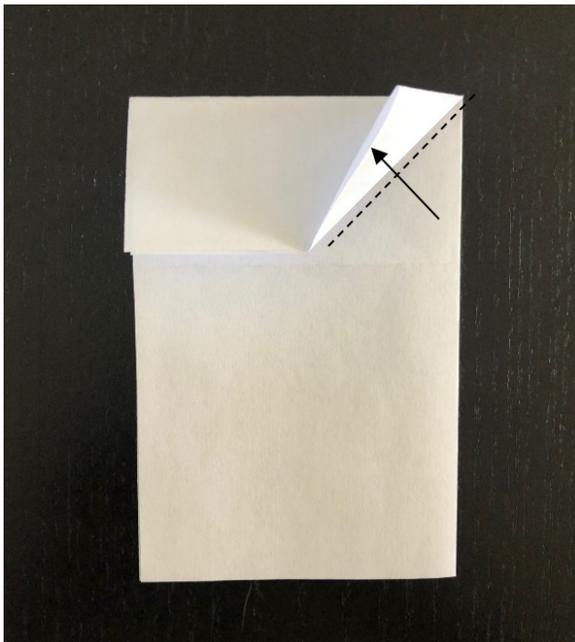




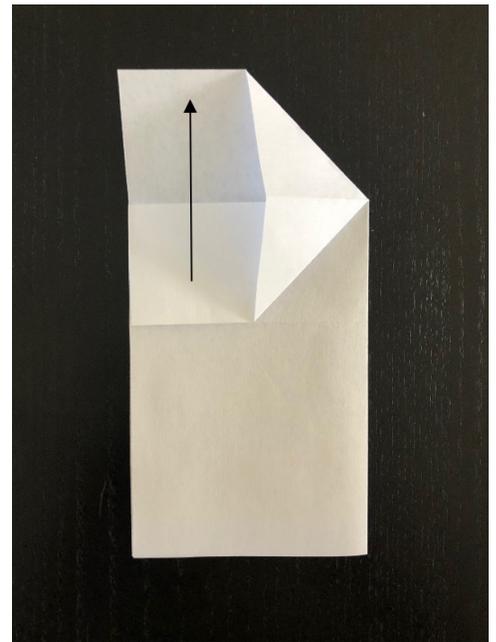
Fold again "hotdog" style.



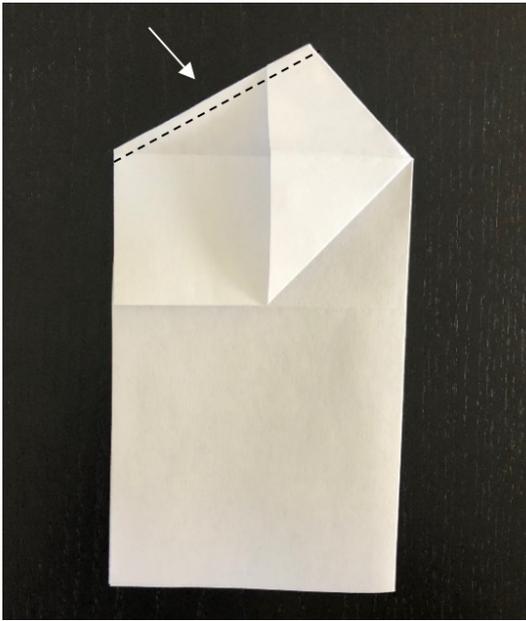
Fold top part down and meet the center crease.



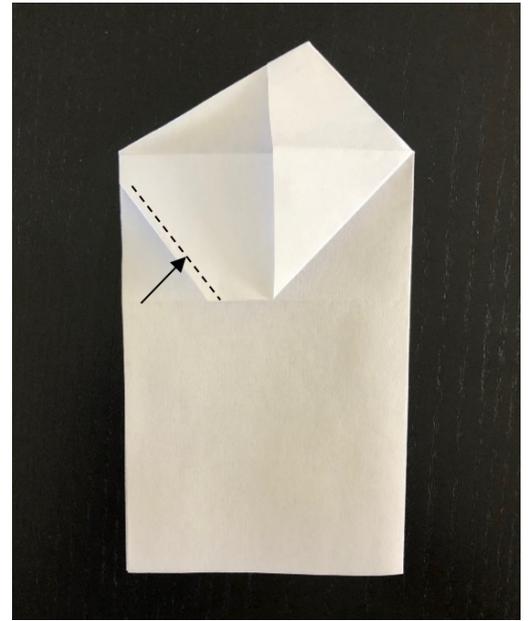
Fold to make a crease then fold back.



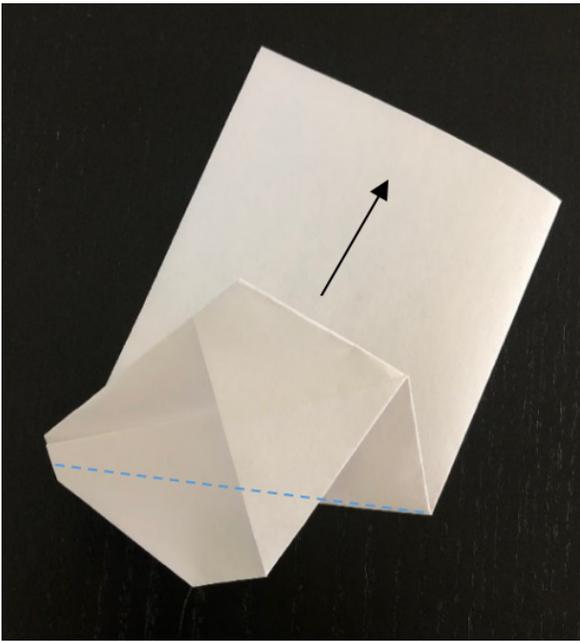
Open and fold flat.



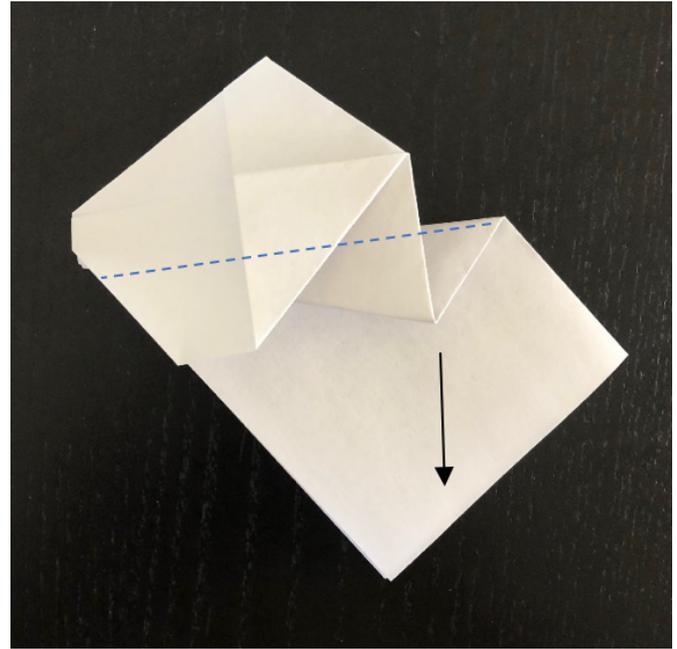
Fold top backward to make the top of head.



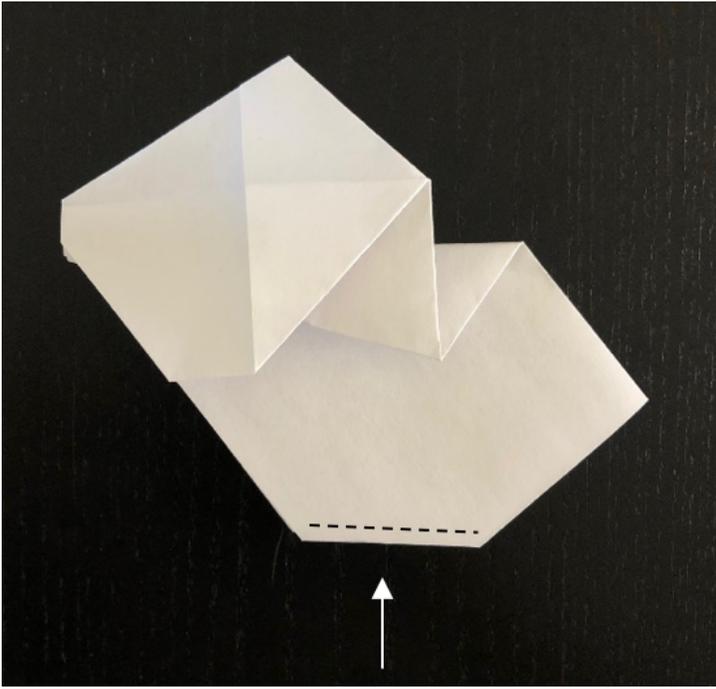
Fold bottom flap under to make the pouch.



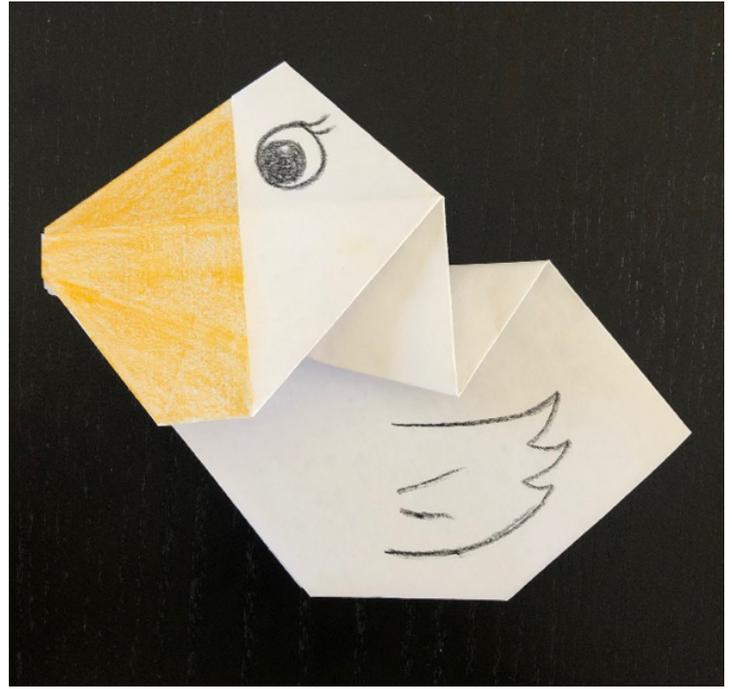
Fold body back and angle it to the right.



Fold back and down so the pouch is in line with the body.



Fold bottom tip backward.



Decorate your pelican however you like!

For an added challenge:

Measure your wingspan using a measuring tape to see which pelican you match. Compare your Pelican wingspan to a parent, guardian or sibling!



To check out our resident Pelicans, use link below for our Pelican cam!
seewinter.com/animals/webcams/pelican-cam/