

“I am a turtle. Wherever I go, I carry my home on my back.” –Gloria Anzaldúa

THE HOME I CARRY activity

Created by Norma Centeno, adapted by Reyna Grande

Materials:

- Picture of the turtle outline
- Copy Paper
- Cardstock (white)
- Construction paper (black)
- Tape
- Watercolors (shared by groups of two)
- Thin brushes (one for each person)
- Felt Tip pen, pencils (one for each person)
- Small cups (for water, also could be share by groups of two)
- Paper towels (one per person to wipe excess of water from the brushes and spills)

What is home? Home is what makes us what and who we are. It isn't a specific place on a map. Home is what we carry with us, wherever life takes us. Home can be found in a scent, in the lyrics of a song, in a sentence of a book, in the taste of fruit, in the celebration of a holiday, in the color of a sunset.

- 1 First print the turtles on regular copy paper.
2. On each scale, have students write the things that are home to them, for example: A favorite family tradition, holiday, hobby, place, color, food, fruit, scent, movie, TV show, song, person (s), book, etc... Encourage students to write in pencil in case they make a mistake, then trace their words with the felt pens.
3. Photocopy their draft in cardstock so they can color the turtle with watercolors.
4. Once dry, back them up with black construction paper to make a frame, using the tape to paste the picture. It does (not take a lot of time to dry because the watercolors dry fast.)
5. On a separate paper, have students write a poem, prose or in verse, using the words they wrote on their turtles.

Opening line: **I am a turtle. Wherever I go, I carry my home on my back.**

I carry _____, and _____....

Closing Line: This is the home I carry.

Activity 2: Poem

"I am From..."

I am from _____ (sound growing up)
And _____ (smell in or around home).
From _____ (specific item around your house),
from _____ (product name),
and _____ (a view in your neighborhood).
I am from _____ (the touch of fabric in the house).
I am from _____ (plant, flower, natural item),
and _____ (songs, song lyrics)
I am from _____ (family tradition) and _____ (hobby),
from _____ (name of family member) and _____ (another name)
I am from _____ (description of family
personality trait) and _____ (another family personality trait).
From _____ (saying /expression you learned
as a child) and _____ (another...)
From _____ (representation of religion, or lack of it).
I am from _____ (favorite food),
and _____ (family tradition around
food)
From _____ (favorite game), _____ (best friend),
and _____ (favorite hang-out spot).
I am from _____ (description of special location for
family).

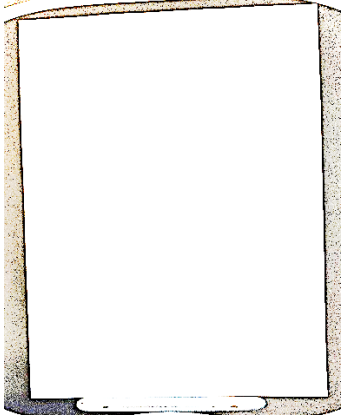
Activity 3: Origami Home

Materials: One sheet of white paper

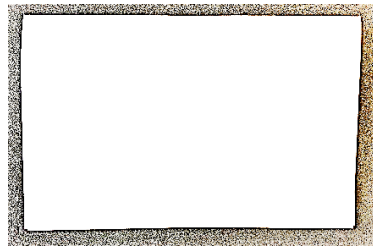
Pen

Coloring pencils or crayons

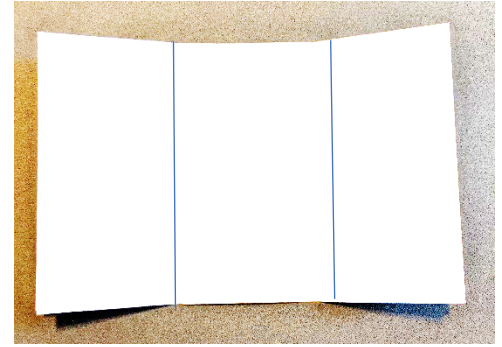
Begin with a sheet of paper



Fold it in half



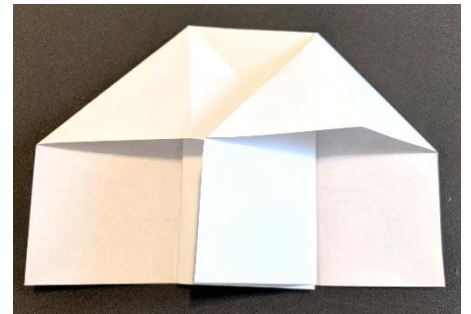
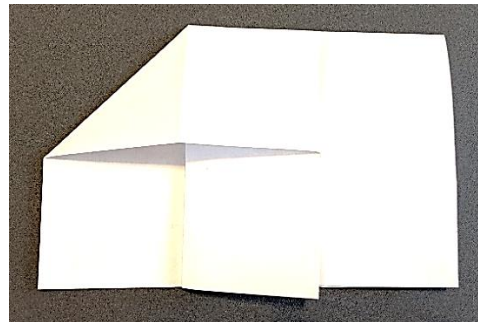
Fold in 3 equal parts



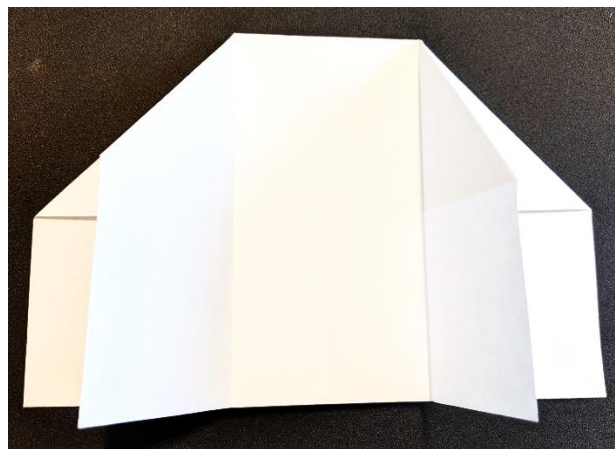
Press in the top left corner to make the roof



Press in the other corner



Open the house and draw the place where you most feel at home (your room, classroom, office, garden, favorite coffee shop, movie theater, store, etc...) Be as detailed as possible. (optional: color it in with crayons or coloring pencils)



Origami House Writing Exercise:

Write about the place where you most feel at home. Describe it, show us how you feel when you are there, tell us how it smells, what sounds you hear, who is there. Why does it feel like home to you? Are there any vivid memories that come to you as you write about this place?

A Year of Weekly Writing Prompts:

The best gift I ever got...

I am from...

Friendship...

If I had 3 wishes...

I'm thinking of...

I'm not thinking of...

When I am alone...

I'd like to repeat the day when...

I know...

I don't know...

Without being sentimental, my family...

When I am swimming...

I am...

I am not...

I was most frightened...

8th grade...

I would like to change...

So what?...

My prayers...

I want...

I don't want...

I understand God...

What I really want to say is...

I feel...

I don't feel...

When I look at the stars...

I am proudest of...

My pet would say my life is...

I had magical powers when...

The light through the window

I am most connected to nature...

I am glad to be alive because...

I regret...

The most sacred place in the world is...

I give thanks...

My most embarrassing moment...

Am I content?...

My greatest fault...

I feel angry...

I believe...

My birthday...

Someday, I will...

I admire...

The first time I...

If I ran away...

When I look in the mirror...

If you were here, I would ask...

How happy am I today?...

I am tired...

I loved that bumper sticker...

Just for a day, I would like...

I really helped someone else when...