Fold a square sheet of paper in half horizontally, vertically and diagonally, unfolding the paper each time. These creases will make it easier to fold the crane later.

Now that all the creases have been made, fold the paper diagonally once to make a triangle.

Open up the top layer into a small square using the creases you made in step one, then fold flat.

Turn over and do exactly the same for the other side.
Open up the top layer and fold the creases you made for the sides of the kite inwards.

You'll find a crease forming behind – fold this down flat as well.

Make a kite shape by bringing the sides to the middle, then open. These creases will help later, so make sure the edges are sharp.

Turn over and do exactly the same to the other side. Once all the creases are in place, you can move on to the next step.
8. Turn over and do exactly the same to the other side.

9. Fold the right half of the diamond over to the left and press flat. (Essentially what you are doing is folding the top layer of the diamond in half vertically, from right to left).

10. Turn over and do exactly the same to the other side. Fold both sides into the middle.

You should be left with this diamond shape.
11. Turn over and do exactly the same to the other side.

12. Fold in half horizontally.

13. Turn over and do the same.

14. Fold the top layer in half vertically, bringing the right half over to the left. Press flat.

15. Turn over and do exactly the same to the other side.

Pull out the middle two spikes to the right and left, folding down the creases that appear at the bottom of the crane as you do so. You should be left with something that looks like this:
Turn the crane upside down and open up the X. This will make it easier for the crane to stand up.

Fold down the large flaps on each side to form the wings.

Fold down the end of one of the thin spikes to form the head.

There are many different ways of making an origami crane. Some people like to flatten the hump in the middle or fold the head inwards rather than to one side. Why not experiment and see how many different types of cranes you can come up with? Try changing the colour, size and texture of the paper.

Success! Your crane is now finished!