

ANTIBODY AND VIRUS ORIGAMI

If you're infected with a virus, your body is ready to fight using antibodies which stick to a virus and encourage immune cells to attack and destroy. We grow specific antibodies during an infection or after vaccination. In this activity, you can fold an antibody, build amazing virus-like sculptures with origami and celebrate your amazing body.

🕒 15 minutes

Skill set: Imaginative, patient, resilient



📦 Kit list

Any square paper!

📖 Instructions

- 1 Origami takes time and patience. Look carefully at the pictures on the next page and think of this as a puzzle. If you're stuck, watch our video immunology.org/origami-antibody-virus ✨.
- 2 If your paper is not square to begin with, follow the instructions on how to make a square paper.
- 3 Now it's time to make an origami antibody.
- 4 When you have finished the antibody, it is time to build amazing virus-like sculptures. Viruses can make us unwell. They are tiny and have a spiky outside and instructions inside to make more viruses (DNA or RNA). Thankfully our immune system makes antibodies to stop viruses. Vaccines encourage your body to grow lots of antibodies so you can be protected from future infection.

- 5 Look carefully at the diagrams for the virus origami. If you get stuck, look at immunology.org/origami-antibody-virus ✨.

⚠️ Watch out

- Find out more about your immune system with the British Society for Immunology and discover 'Our Heroic Bodies' - illustrations of immune cells, bacteria and viruses to add colour to while learning: immunology.org/celebrate-vaccines/our-heroic-bodies ✨.
- Find out more about how vaccines work at celebratevaccines.com

🏠 At home

Make a collection of colourful antibodies to hang as decorations. Do you know the names of any viruses or bacteria that your body needs antibodies to protect against?

➤ Career options

Become an immunologist to study the immune system. You could work in a laboratory, developing vaccines against infectious diseases. Or become a 'clinical immunologist' – doctors who help patients unwell in hospital. If you enjoy origami maybe you could become an engineer.

