

24.

Making a 5-Pointed Star

The regular 5-pointed star has been a popular ornamental figure for centuries. It was a symbol of the ancients. Old drawings show that the star was a favorite of magicians and astrologers. In more recent times, it served as a symbol for the Christians. For some peoples, it has played an important part as a talisman against different forms of misfortune; some have put it on baby cribs to fend off evil; others have painted it on farm buildings to protect the animals. Today this figure is seen in our military rating marks, on police officers' badges, and in decorative designs.

There is no direct relationship between the shape of the stars that have been described and the stars in the sky, except that the heavenly stars seem to be surrounded by rays of light that suggest the 5-pointed geometrical star.

The diagrams and directions below illustrate how to make a star by folding and cutting a sheet of paper.

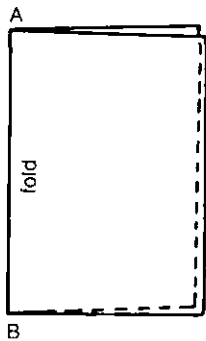


Figure 1.

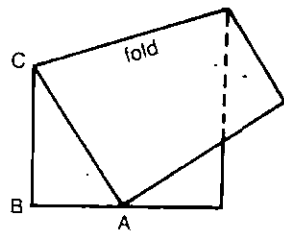


Figure 2.

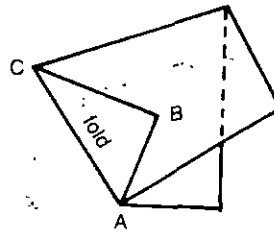


Figure 3.

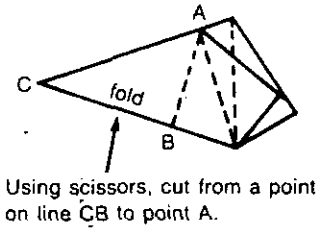


Figure 4.

1. Fold, from left to right, the top of a sheet of regular typing paper. Crease the fold, as in Figure 1.
2. Place the corner marked A on the centre of the opposite edge, and fold flat, as in Figure 2.
3. Fold flap over from point B and crease, as in Figure 3.
4. Now, fold A over to the top edge and crease, as in Figure 4.
5. Using scissors, cut from a point on line CB through point A. Open up the cut-off part, and you will have a finished star.

Experiment with the stars made in the above manner by starting your cuts at different points on line CB and by cutting to various points along line CA. Can you explain how the different cuts change the size and shape of the resulting stars?

