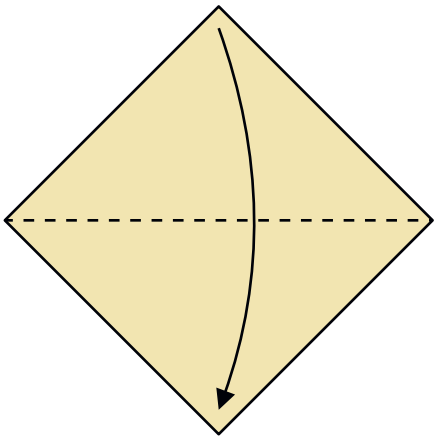
Copepod

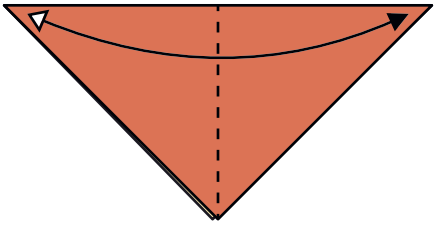
Neil Banas, 2024

Diagrammed by
Peter Buchan-Symons

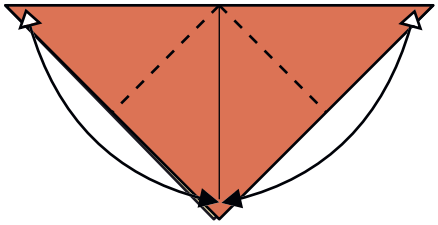
Copepods are tiny crustaceans, 1-5 mm long, that are found everywhere from sunny tropical lagoons to the depths of the Arctic Ocean. They graze on microscopic, plant-like phytoplankton, as well as anything else they can find, including each other. In turn many fish, seabirds, and even whales rely on them as an energy-rich food.



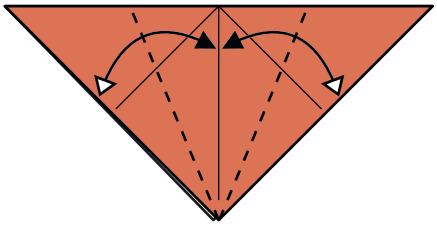
1. Fold the top corner to the bottom (or just start with a right-triangular piece of paper)



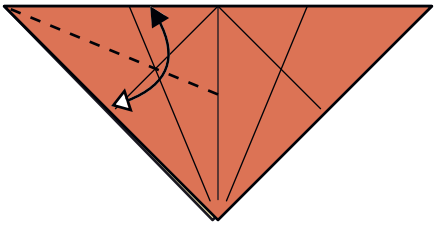
2. Fold in half, then unfold.



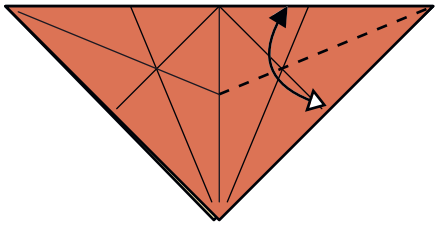
3. Fold the corners to the bottom, then unfold.



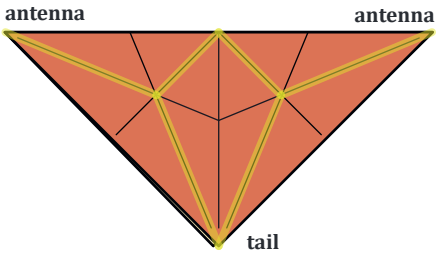
4. Fold the sides to the central crease, then unfold.



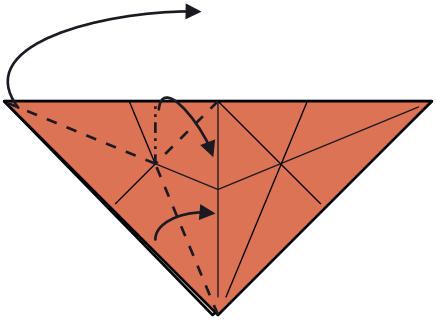
5. Fold the edges at the bottom left to the top edge, then unfold.



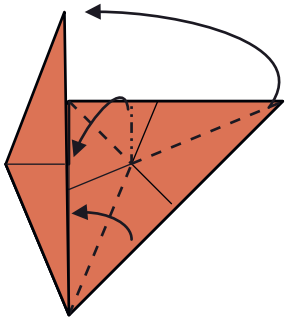
6. Fold the edges at the bottom right to the top edge, then unfold.



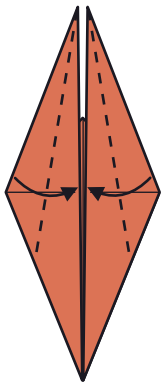
Note that you have now folded all three *angle bisectors* on each side of the model.



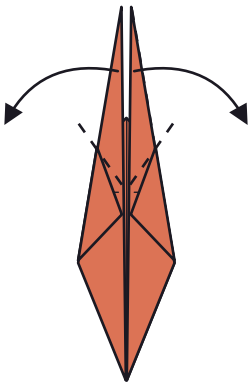
7. Rabbit-ear the left corner upwards using existing creases.



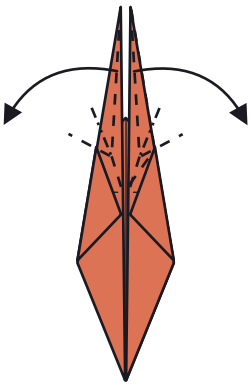
8. Rabbit-ear the right corner upwards using existing creases.



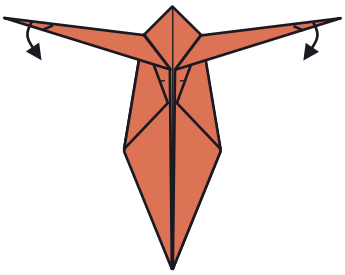
9. Fold the upper outer edges to the centre.



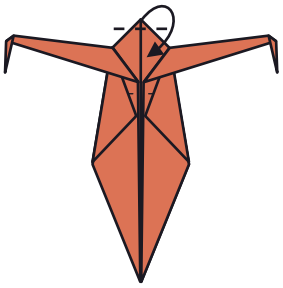
10. Fold the antennae to the sides.



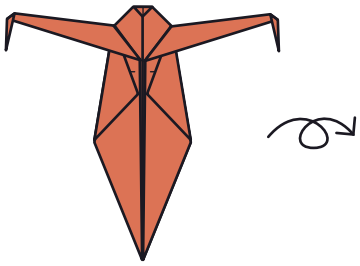
Alternatively, narrow each antenna using a long, slim fish base pattern to make them thinner.



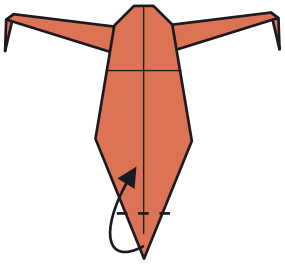
11. Fold the ends of the antennae down at right angles.



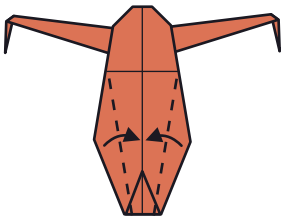
12. Fold the tip of the head down a little.



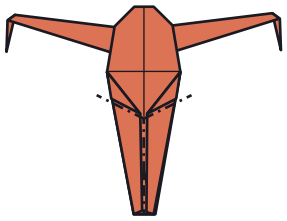
13. Turn the paper over.



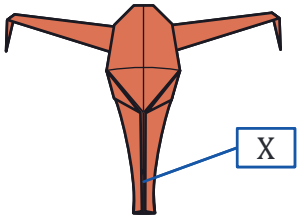
14. Fold the tip of the tail up.



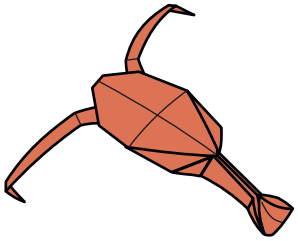
15. Fold the lower edges into the centre.



16. Pinch mountain folds in a 'Y' shape where shown to make the Copepod three-dimensional.



17. Pinch the tail at the hidden tip marked 'X', and fan out the triangle underneath to make the tail.



Finished! Your copepod is ready to go forage for phytoplankton.