

In the past, not many people made origami. This was because paper was **rare** and very expensive. It was mainly made by people who were very rich, or by **monks**.



This painting shows three Japanese women making origami.

When paper became less expensive, more people began to make origami. Origami was often given as a gift, along with origami cards and envelopes.

In 1797, the first book about origami was written. It was called *Sembazuru Oriката*, which means “thousand crane folding”.

