Pterosaur Plane

NOTE TO ADULTS: This paper airplane pterosaur is based on a popular paper airplane model known as the "Nakumura lock" named after the origami artist who invented it. Many web sites offer directions on how to make this airplane. In my experience, young children can learn to fold it with adult guidance - and, even if it is not made precisely, it still glides beautifully.

1. Fold a sheet of 8-1/2 x 11 paper in half lengthwise.

2. Fold the top two corners down, so there’s a triangle at the top.

3. Fold the triangle down.

4. Fold about 1 inch of the triangle’s tip upward.

5. Fold the two top corners down so they touch the line in the middle of the little triangle that’s pointing up. Then unfold these two corners and fold the little triangle tip downward.

6. Refold the top two corners down and lift up the little triangle so it traps the two other corner folds.

7. Flip over the paper and fold it in half, so that you can see a small triangle fold in the middle on both sides.

8. To make the wings, fold the top edge of paper to the bottom edge. Turn the paper over and fold the other top edge to the bottom edge.

pbskids.org/dinosaurtrain
9. Color the plane so it looks like a pterosaur’s body. Draw on eyes, for example.

10. To fly it, give it a gentle push. If you throw it too hard, it won’t glide smoothly.