

# Sweet Corn and Sushi: The Story of Iowa and Yamanashi by Lori Erickson

**Book Synopsis:** *Sweet Corn and Sushi: The Story of Iowa and Yamanashi* by Lori Erickson tells the story of international friendship. In 1959, Yamanashi, Japan was struck by two typhoons. Iowan Richard Thomas wanted to help, so he organized an "Iowa Hog Lift" which flew 35 pigs to Yamanashi. This gift started [America's first sister-state](#) relationship with Japan.

A recorded reading of this book is [available here](#).



## Connection to Iowa History

Yamanashi, Japan suffered two typhoons in less than a month in 1959. Typhoons are much like hurricanes and bring strong winds, rain and destruction. Master Sergeant Richard Thomas, an Iowan, served in the U.S. Air Force and thought of a creative way to help the people of Yamanashi. He organized for 35 hogs to be donated from Iowa farmers and flown to Yamanashi by the U.S. Air Force. The people of Yamanashi repaid the kindness by sending a "[Bell of Friendship](#)" to Iowa in 1962, which is located on the Iowa State Capitol grounds. The connection between Iowa and Yamanashi established a sister-state relationship in 1960, the first between the United States and Japan.

More information about this can be found in the [Iowa's Corn and Agriculture Industry Primary Source Set](#).

## Goldie's Kids Club Storytime Activity

After reading or listening to the book, fold and create your very own origami pig to celebrate the friendship between Iowa and Yamanashi.

### Instructions ([Video Instructions Available](#))

- 1 **Cut.** Using scissors, cut your paper into a square shape. The best size is 6 inches by 6 inches.
- 2 **Fold.** Fold the square diagonally in half and press down.
- 3 **Fold.** Open the square back up and fold in half diagonally in the opposite direction. Press down the fold and reopen. This will leave a "t" in the center of the square.
- 4 **Adjust.** Before the next step, move the paper to be in a diamond shape in front of you. This will help with folding the face.
- 5 **Fold.** Take the right side point of the diamond and fold it toward the center of the "t." Press down the fold.
- 6 **Repeat.** Take the left side point of the diamond and fold it toward the center of the "t." The point of the left and right side should meet in the center. Press down the fold.

### Materials

- Paper
- Scissors
- Black marker

*Instructions continued on next page*

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## Instructions continued

- 7 **Fold.** Fold down the top point to the bottom point. Press the fold.
- 8 **Ears.** To make the pig's ears, fold down the top right hand corner. Repeat on the left side.
- 9 **Nose.** Fold up the bottom point towards the center of the face. Take one piece of the double folded paper and fold down to create the snout.
- 10 **Decorate.** Using the black marker, add eyes and nose holes.
- 11 **Share!** After you complete your craft, share your work with the State Historical Museum of Iowa. Email a photo of your creation to [museum.education@iowa.gov](mailto:museum.education@iowa.gov). We want to share your creation with others!
- 12 **Questions to Spark Learning**
  - Iowa gifted Yamanashi hogs following two typhoons. What would you choose to give as a gift to a different country?
  - Sister states are a formal declaration of friendship and international cooperation. What country or location would you like Iowa to become a sister state?
  - Are sister states important? Why or why not?