

Paper lanterns

Age: 7-11 Group size: 20

Duration: 40 mins

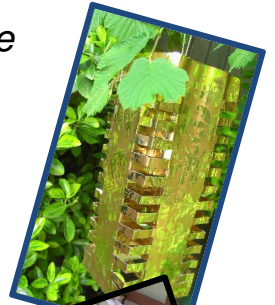


Preparation time: 30 mins

Resources

- Paper A4 or 45x28cms
- Pens, glitter, sequins etc for decoration
- Scissors/pattern edge scissors
- Rulers
- Pencils
- Double sided sticky tape
- String
- Card strips
- glue

The Chinese make paper lanterns to celebrate Lantern Festival which is held on the 15th day of the new year.



Small Lantern

Preparation

This activity needs little preparation if the children are competent at measuring! You will also need 8 card strips measuring 7cms



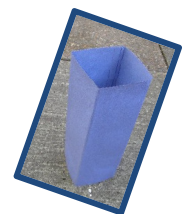
long by 2cms wide.

Activity

Turn the paper so that is in landscape. Measure a strip 1.5cms from the right hand edge, then mark at intervals of 7cms and draw lines from top to bottom. Use the ruler edge to make strong folds along all the lines.

Stick a line of double sided tape along the narrow edge.

Fold the sides to make a box shape sticking the narrow edge underneath to hide the join.



Carefully flatten the box along one of its sides.

Measure a line 3cms up from each end of the box.

From the fold draw a parallel line 2cms deep. This will make a long, narrow rectangle shape. Within that shape



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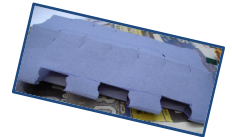


draw lines at 3cms intervals. Cut all the lines up to the 2cms mark. Repeat with all the remaining sides.

Take the lantern and make reverse folds on alternating strips from each side. Put one hand inside, pull the strip inside and then flatten, along the fold. Repeat for all the sides. Add any decoration at this point.

Stand the lantern upright. To help keep the shape rigid, glue the card strips along the sides at the top and bottom of the lantern.

Cut a piece of string 22cms long and attach the ends to the inside of the lantern with tape.



Gold Lantern preparation

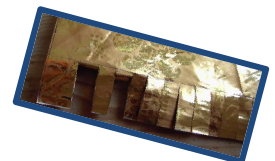
The gold lantern is larger measuring 45cms x 28 cms. Used wrapping paper can be very effective. Assemble in exactly the same way as for the blue lantern, only the measurements are different. The card strips should be 11 cms x 2cms.

Activity

Turn the paper to landscape. Measure a tab 1cms from the edge of the paper, then make vertical lines every 11cms. Apply double sided tape to the 1cm tab. Use the ruler to make strong folds then put the box shape together with the tab stuck to the inside.

Flatten the box and measure 3cms from the top and bottom, then draw a line 3cms up from the fold to make a large rectangle shape. Mark lines at 2 cms intervals. Repeat on all sides.

As before, cut up to the edge of the rectangle then make reverse folds on alternate strips. Stand the lantern upright and attach strips of card around the sides at the top and



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bottom. A stronger hanger can be made by threading pieces of wire through opposite corners to make an x shape, then attach a loop of string across the middle.



Organisation

With a large group or younger children, let half of them begin to decorate their lanterns. Make the lantern as far as cutting the strips and making the reverse folds with the rest of the children. The whole group can then stick on the cards strips and string altogether.

Golden Time

