

Chinese Paper Lantern Craft

These classic paper lanterns are easy to make and can be decorated as festive decorations for any occasion or event. The paper lanterns in this tutorial are red and yellow for Chinese New Year but feel free to use different colors and decorations.

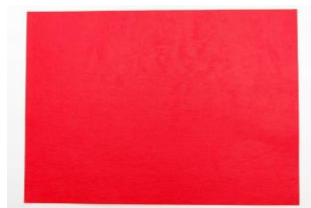


Materials Needed:

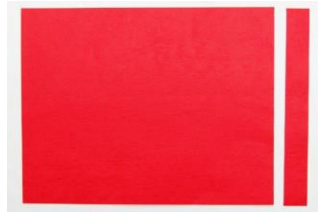
- Rectangular piece of paper or cardstock (preferably red or yellow but any color will do)
- Scissors
- Stapler or tape
- Glue
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Things to decorate your lantern with: gift-wrap paper, tissue paper, washi tape, ribbons, sequins, stickers, glitter glue, small buttons, colored pencils, paint, etc.

Steps:

1. **Prepare the paper.** Lay the paper flat on the table.



2. **Make the handle.** Cut a 1-inch wide strip off on one short side (use a ruler if needed). Set this aside for the handle.



3. **Fold the paper in half.** Fold the paper in half lengthwise or “hotdog” style.



4. **Draw a horizontal line.** Draw a horizontal line 1 inch from the long edge opposite the fold. This line is just a guide for cutting and is optional.



5. **Cut slits.** Starting from the folded edge, cut a straight line about 1 inch from the short edge, all the way up to the horizontal line. Continue to cut more straight lines about 1 inch apart until you reach the opposite short edge of the paper. Remember to stop cutting when you reach the horizontal line.



6. **Unfold the paper.** Unfold the paper and lay it flat on the table. The paper will have several vertical slits along the middle. Optional: erase any pencil marks or refold the crease the opposite way to hide the pencil marks at the back.



7. **Decorate the top and bottom edge.** You can keep your lantern plain or decorate the top and bottom edges. Here are some ideas to try:

- a) **Paint or color** – make a border by painting or coloring the top and bottom edges of the paper.



- b) **Draw details** – create patterns and details with glitter glue, puffy paint, or colored markers.



- c) **Glue a band** – glue a strip of gift-wrap paper, patterned paper, washi tape, fabric, lace, or a wide ribbon to make a border.



- d) **Glue shapes or notions** – glue craft foam or felt shapes, small buttons, beads, sequins, and other notions onto your lantern.



8. **Form the paper into a lantern.** Transform the paper into a lantern by forming it into a tube shape. Overlap the long edges of the paper and staple or tape at the top and bottom of the overlap.



9. **Glue the handle.** Take the paper handle you made in Step 2. Glue, staple, or tape the ends of the paper on the inside of the lantern's top edges. Decorate the handle if desired.



10. **Add streamers (optional).** Cut multiple strips of tissue paper and glue, staple, or tape along the inside of the lantern's bottom edge.



Other fun variations:



Additional Skill Practice:

Here are some additional skills you can work on with your kiddo related to this craft:

- **Color identification:** identifying the various colors of the materials used for this project (examples: paper, decorations, scissors, glue, markers etc.)
- **Shape identification:** identifying the various shapes of the materials used for this project (examples: lantern, glue stick, buttons, ribbon, markers, etc.)
- **Receptive commands:** have your kiddo select the appropriate supply needed for the next step (examples: "Find the scissors.", "Hand me the glue stick.")
- **Expressive commands:** (examples: "What do you use to cut with?", "What do you use to glue with?")
- **Motor imitation:** Show your kiddo how to complete the next step and have them imitate the step. (examples: hanging the lantern up, folding the paper in half, cutting strips, gluing, etc.)