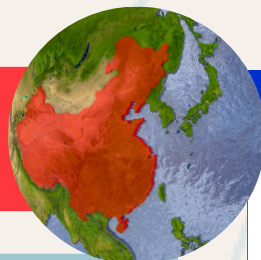


## Lantern Making

### Simple Version



In ancient China, lanterns were used to for light and worship. Today they are used as decorations for festivals, often made in the colours red (lucky in China) and yellow, sometimes with wishes or even riddles inscribed. During festivals you can see them decorating both public spaces and family homes. There are different types of lanterns, such as sky lanterns, which are used for different occasions. There is even a Chinese 'Lantern Festival', celebrated on the fifteenth day or the first month.

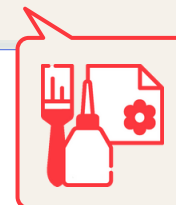
As a key part of Chinese culture, they have a long history. Chinese paper lanterns date back to 25 A.D and it is claimed that sky lanterns originated in China in the Three Kingdom's period (220-265 A.D) when they were used to communicate military information.



## Global Links

Lanterns are used in festivals around the world, with lanterns made from different materials. They are often symbolic of hope and good wishes, reflecting the candles or lights meaning.

Many of these festivals take place in Asia. In Diwali, the Indian Festival of Lights, clay lanterns are placed around entrances. Thailand celebrates Loy Krathong and Yi Peng (celebrated in the north and south respectively) with different types of lanterns. Hoi An, Vietnam, celebrates a monthly Lantern Festival which happens on each full moon. However, you can also find Lantern Festivals in other continents with many modern Lantern festivals in the USA. In Poland, the releasing of 8,000 lanterns into the sky brings an end to the traditional festival of St John's Night.



## Vocabulary

Lantern (n)



dēng lóng  
灯笼

Paper (n)



zhǐ  
纸

Make (v)




zuò  
做

Curriculum Links

Art, Design and Technologies

## Art and crafts

### Lantern Making – Simple

 A4 paper card  
(different colours)


 Scissors

 Stapler

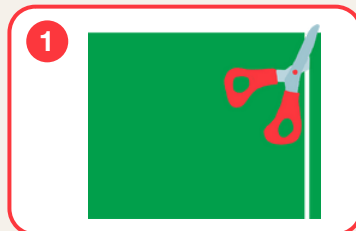
#### Optional:

 Glue sticks

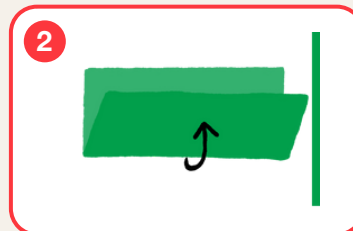
 Paint

 Various wrapping  
paper (recycled ok)

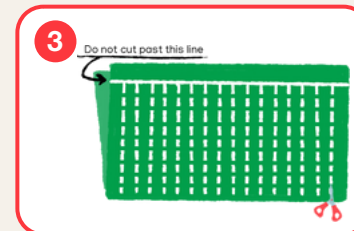
## Method



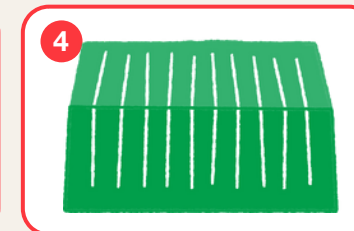
Take your A4 piece of paper, hold it landscape and cut a strip (approx 2 cm wide) off the end



Holding the paper landscape ways, fold the paper in half



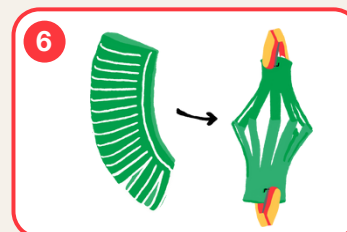
Using the scissors, now cut, from the folded side upwards, incisions a few cm apart. Do NOT cut off full strips right to the end



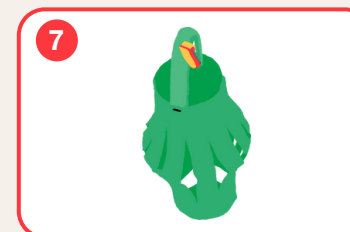
Cut the incisions right to the end and open up the paper



Optional decorations would happen here if you choose to do them!



Hold the paper portrait ways, then join the two ends of the paper together by stapling the top and bottom so you now have a lantern shape



For the handle, take the original strip you cut off, staple one end inside the lantern in the top strip and then the other end of the strip on the inside of the lantern directly opposite



Your lantern is complete. Hang it up to decorate the classroom or school!

## Explore!

Red is a lucky colour in China so we see a lot of it used to decorate homes and the community during Chinese festivals. Try making lanterns out of red cardboard, or decorate other coloured ones with red wrapping paper or paint.

What lucky colours exist in other cultures?

## Optional decorations

- You can decorate the top and bottom of the lantern with a band of different colour paint
- You may wish to decorate this section of the lantern with a glued on strip of colourful wrapping paper
- You can always write good wishes or messages on your lanterns too!

[Lantern Making video:](#)



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