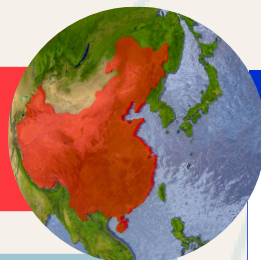


Lantern Making

Complex Version



In ancient China, lanterns were used 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.

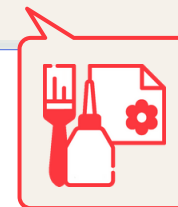
As a key part of Chinese culture, they have a long history. Chinese paper lanterns date back to 25 A.D and it is claimed that sky lanterns originated in China in the Three Kingdom's period (220-265 A.D) when they were used to communicate military information.



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.

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

Chinese Lantern Making – Complex

 Red coloured card

 Scissors or a paper cutter





 Glue sticks

 PVA glue

 Ruler

 Pencil

A. Method

- 1 Take a red piece of card 17cm by 11cm, place it landscape and measure 1cm in from the top on both the left and right sides, mark with a pencil and use the ruler to fold a section down from the top. Repeat at the bottom so you have a 'band' running across the top and bottom 
- 2 Holding the paper landscape ways, either fold the paper in half and using the scissors cut from the folded side upwards, incisions 1 cm apart. Do NOT cut into the top and bottom bands OR using the ruler, mark 1cm dots across the top and bottom bands, then cut strips between the top and bottom bands using the paper cutter, using the ruler to keep the incisions straight
- 3 Glue a strip of yellow card completely across the top and bottom bands 
- 4 Fold the top and bottom section 'in' and glue the backside of the band. Stick each band now onto a new piece of red card 21cm by 8cm. This second card is shorter than the piece you are glueing on so it will push the lantern pieces outwards creating a lantern shape
- 5 Cover with glue the section of card sticking out to the right and wrap the lantern card so this is glued to the inside of the other side, creating a circular lantern shape
- 6 Optional tassel making stages would happen here if you choose to do them! 
- 7 Taking small red rectangles of card, roll them and glue the ends down so you have four different paper rolls.
- 8 Stick two of them on the inside of the top of the lantern on directly opposite sides. Glue the third across the bottom of the lantern (to stabilise the lantern). Glue the final one across the top of the two top handles
- 9 Take the long tassel (if made) and thread the non-tassel end over the bottom paper roll by a few cm and then glue the top ends together so it hangs off this roll.
- 10 Hang your lanterns up! 

B. Method Optional: Hanging Tassel You can make neither, one or both Tassel pieces A and B.

Long tassel

- 1 Taking a smaller rectangle of red card, fold in half three times, landscape ways
- 2 Open it once and cut from the bottom upwards a few times, stopping a few mms from the top. Open it up to see the 'tassel shape'.
- 3 Using an A4 red card, cut a strip from top to bottom, portrait ways approx 3 cm wide. Fold the left edge inside to one third, fold the right side over this. Fold firmly and you may wish to glue the sides down. You now have a long, thick strip.
- 4 Take your tassel piece, tassels facing upwards. Place a dot of glue on the bottom right corner and glue the long strip down

Tassel decoration (tricky)

- 5 Take a small square of red card, fold in half and half again. Open and now fold in half and half again diagonally. Open up.
- 6 Open up and place diagonally on the table. Lifting the top of the paper up in a point, fold the two sides in so their points match the point facing down. Then fold the top point over it. You should now have a folded square shape, pointing upwards in a diamond orientation. If you open the card, it creates a 'birds beak' effect.
- 7 Fold into a triangle and face upwards. Draw this shape on the card and cut this paper cutting shape.
- 8 Open the shape and thread the long strip through it so the shape sits at the bottom on top of the tassel.

Explore!

Red is a lucky colour in China so we see a lot of it in Chinese festivals decorations. What colours do you know are lucky or unlucky in different cultures?

[Chinese Lantern Making video:](#)



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