

Chinese Paper-Mache Lantern Craft

Grades 5-6



SUPPLIES NEEDED:

sauce pan
measuring cup
wooden spoon
flour, 1 cup or more
water
measuring cup
glue
scissors
tape
string or yarn
round balloon(s)
red rice paper or similar red paper
print one copy of medallions for each lantern
bowl or cup
Optional supplies: spatula or pastry brush



STEP ONE:

Mix 4 parts water and 1 part flour in sauce pan, cooking over low heat until smooth. Let cool. (For one lantern, 1 cup of water and ¼ cup of flour will make enough paste.)

STEP TWO:

Blow up balloon and tie it. Tear strips of red paper and coat inside layer of paper strips with flour paste. Use a spatula, pastry brush, or your fingers to apply the paste. After the paper is glued onto the balloon, smooth down any ends by applying the flour paste on the outside of the paper. The paste will dry clear.

STEP THREE:

Let the paper-mache balloon dry thoroughly. For best results, wait 24 hours. (Drying time will vary depending on room temperature, paper thickness, etc. Set on top of a bowl or cup as it dries.)

STEP FOUR:

Pop the balloon. On the end of the balloon where the balloon knot was previously tied, cut a larger opening.

STEP FIVE

Cut a piece of yellow construction paper approximately 11" X 3". Taking precautions not to cut to the very end of the paper, cut fringe along the entire length of the strip. Affix fringe to the inside of the lantern using tape.

Alternate idea: affix lightweight gold furniture or clothing fringe

STEP SIX:

With scissors, make a small hole in the top of the lantern.

STEP SEVEN:

Take a long piece of string (approximately 18" long). About 6 inches from the end of the string, tie a large knot. Reinforce the knot with tape to make it even bigger. Then pull the six inches on the end of the string through the small hole you made on the top of the lantern. Pull the string gently until the knot inside the lantern cannot come through. With the six inches of string outside the top of the lantern, make a loop and tie it. The lantern will hang from this knot.

STEP EIGHT:

Print out a copy of the hanging medallions. Cut out the medallions. Attach one of the medallions to the string using tape. Apply glue, then attach the second medallion to the back of the first one.

You are finished! Hang the Chinese lantern from a doorway or balcony.

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