

No. 22021

# Color In Chinese Lanterns

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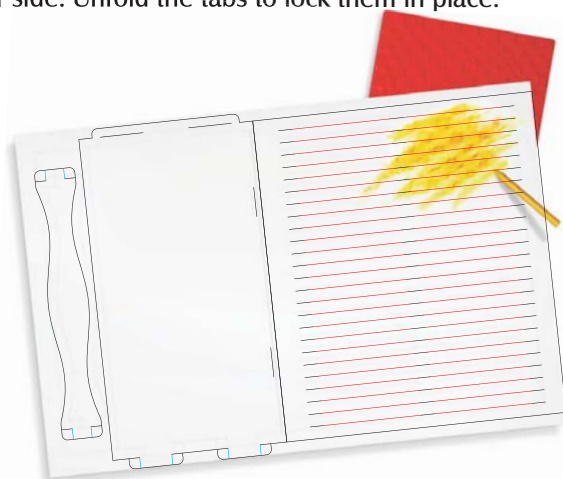
Light up your classroom with these wonderful paper lanterns! We've designed them to be easy for younger children to decorate using rubbing plates and regular crayons. Older children will enjoy creating more elaborate designs. Note: They are not for use with candles or electric lights.

There are three parts to each lantern. The handle is the long, wavy piece with tabs at either end. The central cylinder is the rectangular piece with the tabs on the sides and two slots at the top (these slots work with the tabs on the handle). The final piece is the slotted sheet that will form the body of the lantern. We used a perforation blade to cut the slits in these sheets. At the top, bottom and middle of each slit is a small length that is cut cleanly through. Use these areas to help students split the slots after decorating.

Start by decorating all three pieces. We wanted to create a craft that was perfect for younger children while still being satisfying for older students. Try using Roylco's rubbing plates to create your design. Rubbing plates are tough, versatile plastic plates with designs embossed on them. You can use a specific theme like leaves, animals, birds, fossils or cultural motifs, or you can design with overall patterns like optical illusions, textures or fabric. Check out our website for the full line of rubbing plate designs, [www.roylco.com](http://www.roylco.com).

If you don't have access to rubbing plates, use regular crayons or markers to make your designs. Children can scribble over the sheet or draw specific pictures. Investigate the history of Chinese lanterns or be inspired by natural designs. Tip: For the slotted sheet, you can draw on both sides. The reverse side will be seen when the lantern is assembled.

Once the sheets are designed, assemble the lantern. Start by rolling the central cylinder sheet into a tube. Fold in the wings on the both tabs and slide the tabs through the slots on the other side. Unfold the tabs to lock them in place.



Next, pop out the handle from the backer sheet. Fold in the wings on both tabs. Slide one of the tabs through one of the slots in the cylinder. Tip: If you can't find the slot in the cylinder, try flipping it over and looking again. Bend the handle over and slide the tab on the opposite end of the handle into the corresponding slot in the cylinder.

Now you are ready to add the slotted body sheet. Begin by separating all of the slots. Gently rip along the perforations starting at the middle or ends of each slot. Continue gently ripping until all of the slots are detached. Next, roll the sheet into a tube. Use two small pieces of tape to fasten the top and bottom of the tube together. Slide the cylinder with the handle attached to it, inside the slotted tube. Tape the top of the slotted tube to the top of the cylinder. Lift the bottom of the slotted cylinder up until it matches the bottom of the cylinder. Tape in place. Now you have your finished lantern!

To add complexity to your design, fold the slotted tube at the top of one or both ends of the slots. Affix it to the internal cylinder. Alternatively, after taping one end of the cylinder in place, rotate the slotted tube and tape to the bottom of the cylinder. This will give your lantern a spiral look.

**The History of Chinese Lanterns:** Chinese lanterns were first crafted almost 2000 years ago during the East Han Dynasty (25 - 220 AD). At that time the lanterns were used almost exclusively within the walls of the great Imperial palaces.

The lanterns continued to develop as a functional piece of art and reached their peak of popularity during the Tang and Song Dynasties (618 and 1279). By this time they were accessible to more people who used the lanterns to light the entrance to their homes and ward away evil spirits with the charms painted on or hanging from the bottom of the lanterns.

Today the lanterns are very popular, not for practical reasons, but for the symbolic role they play in ceremonies and celebrations. Many cultures that support large Chinese populations have traditional Chinese New Year Celebrations and the lanterns play an important role in these festivities. Additionally, many cultures have specific Chinese Lantern Festivals that feature an array of shapes, sizes and styles of lanterns.

Look for more information about these festivals and the unique designs of traditional lanterns by exploring the world wide web.



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