



PAPER LANTERN

Piper's Activities

Often associated with celebrations and festivals, paper lanterns are common in both Chinese and Japanese cultures. Use these pretty lanterns as decorations at your next party!

Things You'll Need:

Balloons
Crepe paper
Battery-operated tea light candles
Large bowl
Water
Flour
Needle
Wire
Needle nose pliers
Sponge paintbrush
Sealer

Directions:

Tear your crepe paper into strips or shapes and set aside. Change up the shape and color of your crepe paper to give your lantern a unique look. Mix one part flour to three parts water into your large bowl. Stir until well blended, but still lumpy. This will be your paper mâché paste.

Next, blow up and tie a balloon. This will be the shape of your lantern. Dip your crepe paper into your paper mâché paste then drape it over your balloon. Continue until your balloon is almost completely covered. Leave an opening at the top of the balloon so you can reach your hand into it and put your battery-operated candle in place. Set aside to dry.

Using your foam brush, spread sealer all over your lantern once dried. Decoupage sealer works well. Make sure you add a few coats until you like the sheen.

Pop the balloon with your needle once the crepe paper has dried fully. Twist your needle into both sides of your lantern near the top. This will be where you put your wire to hang your lantern.



PAPER LANTERN *(continued)*

Piper's Activities

Cut a piece of wire with your wire cutters. Use a tape measure to measure the length from the hook that you are hanging your lantern from to where you would like your lantern to hang. Multiply that number by two and cut your wire at that length. If you wanted to hang your lantern 6 inches, you would cut 12 inches of wire.

Insert one end of the wire through the small hole that you made. Curl the end of the wire with your needle nose pliers. This will stop the wire from falling out. Repeat on the other side. Pull and bend your wire till you are satisfied with its shape. This will be how you hang your lantern. Turn on your battery operated tea light candle and insert into your lantern. Hang and enjoy.

Ask a grown-up for help when using knives and other sharp objects, and when using candles. Be sure to use pot holders when handling warm wax.

The Fences Between Us

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Paper Lantern