

Make a Chinese Paper Lantern

- Materials : approx. 12"x18" construction paper, assorted colors or:
- approx. 12"x18" white drawing paper
- scissors
- Chinese New Year or Spring Festival background information, see below
- lantern directions, see below
- assorted media: crayons, markers, paints
- chart
- chart paper
- marker

Procedure

Explain to students that the Chinese Calendar, based on the lunar and solar calendar, is different than the Gregorian calendar used by the United States. After reading about Chinese New Year (see below), discuss and chart New Year customs and traditions for both China and for the United States (Venn diagram). Explain that they will make Chinese lanterns used during the celebration of Chinese New Year or Spring Festival. Model the construction of one for the students.

Chinese Lantern Directions

1. Let students choose either colored paper or white paper for their lantern. If they choose white paper, they can decorate the lantern paper using any designs or colors they like, a Chinese motif would look nice. Point out that red is considered a lucky color for the Chinese. Students may also wish to draw and color any of the zodiac animals on their lanterns.

1.



Decorate the paper which will be the lantern.



2. **Fold decorated paper in half the long way.**



3. **Cut along the long side up from fold every two inches - stopping 2 inches from the open end.**

4. **Open the folded paper and bend and round out along the short sides into a circle shape. Staple the two open ends together at the top middle and bottom.**

5. **Cut out paper strips and staple to the top of the lantern to act as a handle. Display lanterns.**