

Paper Lantern Instructions

Designed by Yvonne de Mille for Classroom Construction

Materials

A3 paper 1 sheet per lantern

A2 light card or recyclable light card eg. Cereal box or other packaging

Heavy card for templates

Wax crayons or candles

Food colouring (Paint is opaque, food colouring is transparent and allows the light to shine through.

Newspapers

protective table covering

Tea light candles or LED's

Equipment

Staplers

Scissors

Pencils

Templates

Paint Brushes

Jars or containers for the food colouring (squat containers are less likely to get tipped over)

Textures such as lace, woven basket material, leaves or templates such as stars or Kowhaiwhai from card which might be appropriate for Matariki. (Please seek any appropriate permissions when using Maori motifs) You could alternatively print a pattern onto the paper before dyeing.

Create template sets for the bottom of the lantern:- Using the heavy card, cut a circle with a radius of 6cm and another with a radius of 8cm = 1 set.

Divide the group number by 6 and this should be the number of sets you need. e.g. 24 students = 4 template sets. You could also make a template for the handle which is 3.5cms x 42 cms (the short edge of the A2 card is 42cms and some rulers are 3.5cms wide)

Preparation for the workshop

Dilute the food colouring:- In a large jar or plastic container add 50ml food colouring to approximately 400ml water.

Cut out templates, assemble materials and equipment. Set up the room.

Protect tables with covering of your choice. (the following is just a suggestion but this method has been the most successful for me.) Depending on the size of the tables have one or two colours on each table and two or three brushes per colour. The brushes stay with the dye. Have paper towels on hand. I usually put a dab of colour on a paper towel and place it under the jar so the participants can see what it will look like when dry. The dye stays on the table, the children place their paper on top of a couple of sheets of newspaper and carry it to the colours they prefer, leaving the brushes with the dye.

Method

It's a good idea to start with the dyeing process so that the paper can dry while you are making the other things that you need to complete the lantern.

For the Frottage

Choose the texture item that you prefer e.g. lace or leaves and place the A3 paper on top of it and holding securely with one hand, rub the wax crayon or candle over the whole piece of paper using as much pressure as the children can manage. This will leave a resist pattern on the paper (frottage). Decide on your colours and paint the dye over your design and leave it to dry.

Construction

Using the larger circle template draw around it on the light card and cut it out, then place the smaller template in the centre of the larger circle and draw around that. Now cut little snips about towards the centre of the circle but ending at the edge of the smaller circle, this will create tabs that you fold along the line at 45degrees creating a base for the lantern.

Using the A3 dyed paper, fold down approximately 3 cms on both of the long sides, then fold over one more time on one side, this will be the top of your lantern. Next bring the non folded edges together to create a cylinder tucking one folded edge inside the other, top and bottom with an overlap of 3cm which should allow the the base to fit perfectly, staple the edges of the cylinder then fit the base with the tabs facing down to easily take the staples. Try to get the staples as close to the fold of the base as possible.

Attach the handle by stapling one end near the top of the inside of the lantern and over the join in the paper and then the other end directly opposite on the inside.

Adhere tea lights with blue tack or double sided tape. If using wax candles please place the lit candle inside a small jar and affix as above and do not hang in trees.

Number of Participants

Requirements/Purchases

| Textures | A3 sheets 1 each | A2 light card | Heavy card | Paper Towels | Tea lights 1 each | Food Colouring |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------|------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
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| Table Cover | Jars | Crayons | Staplers | Brushes | Scissors | Newspaper |
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