

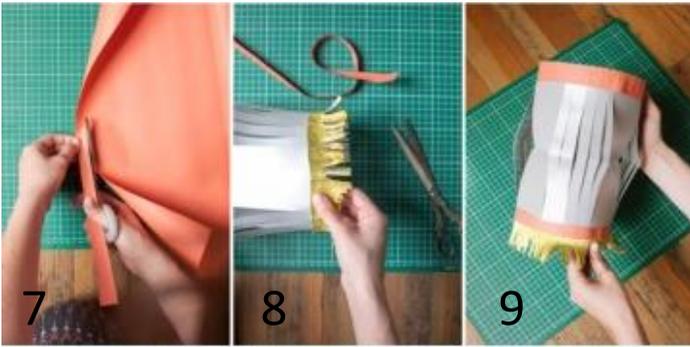
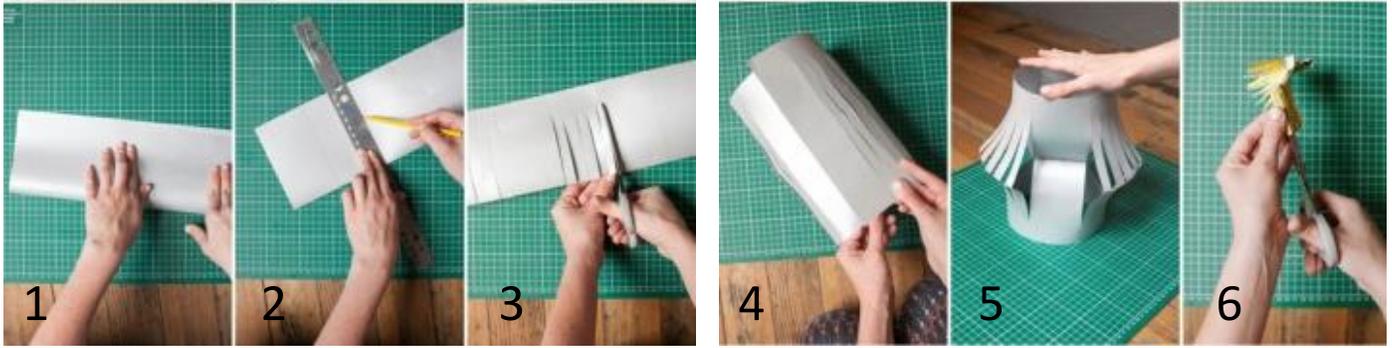
Paper Lantern Traditions

Paper lantern festivals have been a long lasting tradition on the winter solstice to chase away the longest night and welcome the coming light! There are many cultures that have some form of welcoming the lengthening days, but one tradition that still persists today is creating paper lanterns and carrying them through the longest night of the year. Get crafting to chase the dark away!

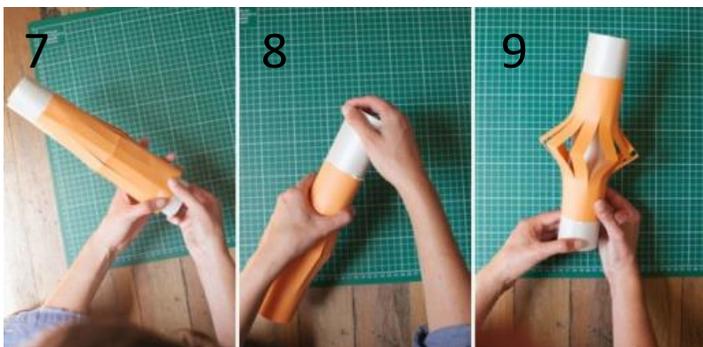
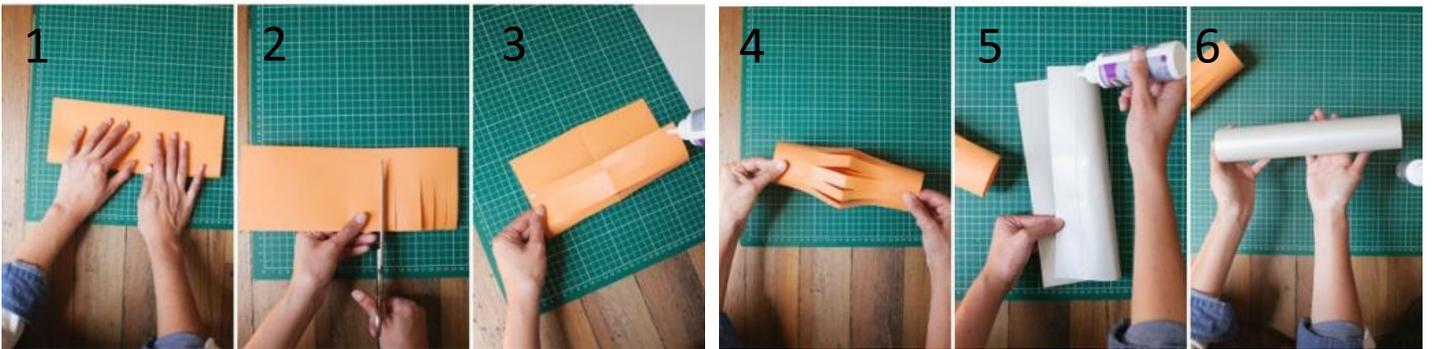


Lantern Inspiration

Method #1:



Method #2:



Paper Lantern Instructions:

1 Draw designs or pictures (optional) If you want, you can use markers or crayons to draw designs on the sheet of paper you'll be using for your lantern.

2 Fold the paper. Take your piece of paper and fold it in half lengthwise (like a hot dog).

3 Cut the paper. Cut along the folded edge, but not all the way to the end. It's up to you how long you want the slits to be. The longer the slits, the more light will shine through and the more flexible/floppy your lantern will be. You can also decide how large you want your strips to be. The number of strips will completely change the look of your lantern. An inch or so apart is fairly standard.

4 Make a tube. Take the two ends of the paper and wrap them around to make a round tube shape. Use a piece of tape, glue, or stapler to stick it together. Make sure to secure the entire length of the lantern! This is the basic shape of your lantern, and you can stop here or make it as fancy as you'd like!

5 Add decorations. You can glue a paper fringe, other colored strips of paper, or a paper handle to your lantern -- see the lantern inspiration photo for ideas. If you're planning on hanging your lantern, adding a string handle may be a good idea.

6 (Optional) Get your light ready to hang in your lantern. Make sure your LED light works – unscrew it completely and take out the piece of paper inside. Leave it slightly unscrewed to keep it off, and tighten it to turn it on. Batteries should last for at least 2 hours, and up to 48 hours.

7 (Optional) Hang your LED light inside your lantern. Cut a short (~1 foot) length of string. Use a paper clip to poke two large holes directly opposite one another near the top of your lantern. Thread the string through one hole, and tie it to the lantern with a double knot. Thread your light onto the string, and then thread the string through the other hole. Tie another knot, leaving the string loose enough so that your light hangs down into the middle of the lantern. Cut any extra string and twist your light to turn it on!

8 Enjoy the finished product. You can put a candle inside, hang it from the ceiling, or use it as a centerpiece. Since the lantern is made of paper, only put a tea candle or votive in the center if you have a glass to put it in. Place the candle in the glass and put the lantern around the glass to light it up. It's best if the glass is deep so the flame doesn't sear the edge of the lantern and start a fire. Only use a candle inside if you are sitting the lantern on a flat surface, not if you are hanging it or using the handle.

