

WYCKOFF HOUSE MUSEUM

Paper Lantern Activity Instructions



Before electricity existed, people relied on candles to light their homes after dark. When traveling outside at night, lanterns helped protect the candle's flame from blowing out.

Let's try making our own lanterns from paper!

Materials:

Paper (cardstock, copy paper or construction paper)

Pencil

Tape

Optional: colored pencils, crayons, colored tissue paper, string, or other decorative materials

Instructions:

1. Decide what pattern you would like on your lantern. This can be a shape (heart, star, circle, flower) or other pattern of your choice.
2. Trace your shape or pattern onto the paper. This will be the inside part of your lantern.
3. Use your pencil to start to poke holes through the paper along the pattern. Space your holes out as you go along.
4. When you finish, roll the paper into a tube shape and tape the edges to create the lantern. You can erase the pencil markings or make that part the inside of the lantern where no one will see.
5. Optional: make two holes at the top of the lantern to attach a string for hanging.
6. Test it out! Place your lantern over a light bulb to see how much light shines through.

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Experiment with your new paper lantern!

- Try different designs to see what patterns give the best light.
- Glue or tape colored tissue paper along your pattern to see how it changes the light color.
- Decorate the outside of your lantern with colored pencils, crayons, or stickers.



Remember: don't use your paper lantern with a real candle or leave on a lightbulb unattended.