

SUMMER CAMPS

MIDLAND
CENTER
FOR THE
ARTS

Chinese Paper Lanterns

Description: This week, we will be exploring ancient cultures from around the world! In this activity, we will be making paper lanterns and exploring the Chinese New Year.

The Lantern Festival is celebrated on the 15th day of the first month of the Chinese calendar. It marks the final day of Chinese New Year. During the festival, children go out at night carrying paper lanterns and solve riddles on the lanterns. In ancient times, the lanterns were fairly simple and only the emperor and noblemen had large ornate ones. Today, lanterns have been embellished with many unique designs.

Recommended Ages: 1st – 5th

Materials:

- 1 sheet of lightweight yellow paper, about 11" x 15"
- Colored pencils
- Clear tape or glue
- 1 sheet of heavy red paper, about 11" x 17"
- Scissors
- String
- Tassels (can be homemade from yarn or string)

Procedure:

1. Roll the yellow paper lengthwise to form a long cylinder. Tape or glue it together.
2. Fold the red paper in half widthwise. Draw a line about one inch from the unfolded edge.
3. Make cuts in the red paper about one half inch apart, from the folded edge up to the line you have drawn. Be careful not to cut through the unfolded edge.
4. Open the paper out, wrap the uncut ends around the yellow cylinder, and tape or glue it on. Then hang the lantern on the stick with the string.
5. If you like, you can add tassels. You can also make a longer cylinder and tape or glue several smaller red shades to it, one above the other.