

Art With Abby

Paper Lantern

You can make a beautiful paper lantern with a few simple supplies. Things you will need: 8 1/2" x 11" paper (copy paper, card stock or construction paper), pencil, ruler, scissors, stapler and/or tape, markers if you would like to add a design and a battery operated LED light to illuminate your lantern.



Step 1: With your paper laid horizontally on your table, use your ruler and pencil to mark a line 1/2" in width on the short side of your paper. Cut off this 1/2" wide strip and set it to the side. This will be the handle for your lantern.



Step 2: With your paper still in the horizontal position, fold in half moving the bottom edge of the paper to meet the top edge, making sure the corners line up. Use your pencil and ruler to mark a line 1/2" from the top edge and draw a line across the width of your paper. When you start cutting, this pencil line indicates where to stop cutting.



Step 3: On the fold line, use your ruler and pencil to mark 1/2" or 1" depending on how wide you want the paper strips of your lantern to be. Cut from the fold toward the top of the paper making sure to stop at the pencil line.



The purple paper is an example of 1/2" width and the yellow is 1" width.

Step 4: Unfold the paper, roll into a cylinder with the fold on the outside and press down lightly to make it flair out. Use a stapler or tape to fasten your lantern on the top, middle, and bottom edges to hold it in a circular shape. Take the strip of paper you set aside and fasten to the top for a handle. If you would like to decorate your lantern with markers, do this while the paper is flat, before you fasten the edges together.





Step 5: To add a battery operated tea light take a scrap strip of paper and fold up the edges. Tape the edges to the bottom inside of your lantern, creating a “seat” for your light. Roll a piece of tape and stick the light to the paper. Enjoy your new lantern!

In a hurry? Print the attached lantern template. With your paper on your table horizontally, cut on the dotted line the length of your paper. Set this aside for your handle. Next, fold the paper in half. Cut on the dotted lines up to the solid black line. Resume instructions with Step 4.

