

Topics: World Cultures
(Asia), Chinese New Year
(Lunar New Year)

Materials List

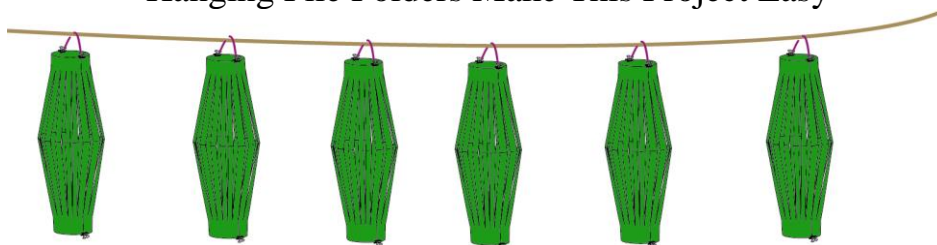
- ✓ Hanging File Folders
- ✓ Binder Clips
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ String
- ✓ Additional decorative items: glue & glitter, tassels, etc.

This activity can be used to support the teaching of:

- Art, society, and culture (National Visual Arts Standards: Connecting: Grades K-7, 11.1)
- Traditions & culture (National Curriculum for Social Studies: Theme 1, Culture)
- Knowledge and understanding of the past (National Curriculum for Social Studies: Theme 2, Time, Continuity, and Change)

Chinese Paper Lanterns

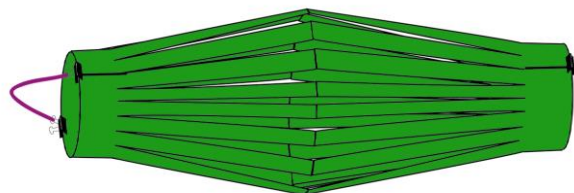
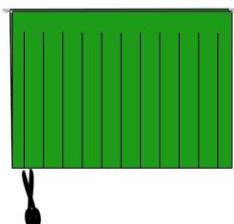
Hanging File Folders Make This Project Easy



Using hanging file folders to make durable paper lanterns as decorations for Lunar New Year celebrations such as the Chinese New Year and the Chinese Lantern Festival.

Assembly

1. Measure and mark lines 2.5 cm (1") apart using a ruler. The lines should start from the folded edge of the file folder and should stop about 2.5 cm (1") from the metal hanger edge. (See the illustration below)
2. Cut along the marked lines.
3. Open the file folder completely.
4. Bend the metal hangers into circles and hold the circles into place with binder clips. Alternately assembly: Trim off the metal hangers and staple or tape the circles into place.
5. Add a second binder clip to the top of the lantern, or punch holes in the top of the lantern and tie a string at the top of the lantern. Use this string to hang the lantern.
6. For addition decoration, add glue, glitter, Chinese characters, tassels, or other items.



The Content Behind the Activity

The Chinese calendar is a lunar calendar that begins on the 2nd new moon after the Winter Solstice in the Northern Hemisphere (December 21 or 22). On the first day of the Chinese New Year the Moon is completely dark or only faintly visible because during the "new moon" phase the Moon is between the Earth and the Sun. The lit half of the Moon is not visible from the Earth. However, the 15th day Chinese calendar is the first full moon. On the 15th night of the Chinese year, according to a tradition that dates back to before the sixth century, thousands of colorful lanterns should be displayed as the perfect compliment to the first bright full moon of the year. Today, the Chinese Lantern Festival is popular throughout China and in Chinese communities throughout the world.

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=37 for more resources!)

More information on the Chinese Lantern Festival can be found online at:

<http://www.chinavoc.com/festivals/lantern.htm>