

Chinese Lanterns

The Lantern Festival is a traditional Chinese festival started in the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.–220 A.D.), and held on the 15th day of the first lunar month of the Chinese new year. On the night of the festival, with a full moon shining brightly in the sky, people go into the streets carrying a variety of lanterns, watch dragons dancing, play games, and set off firecrackers.



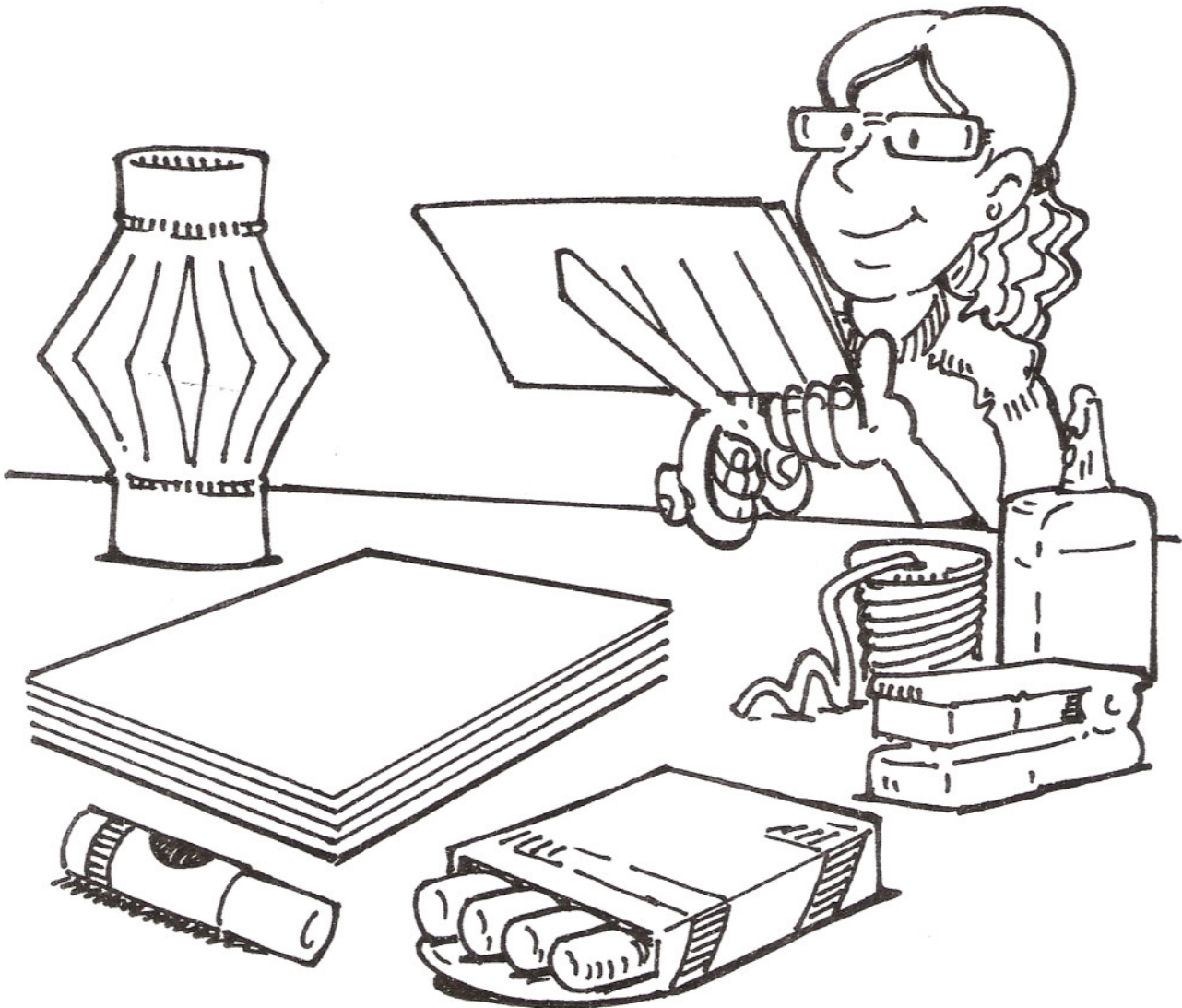
Chinese Lanterns *(continued)*

Project Description

The Ancient China Museum director is anxious to obtain a Chinese lantern for the museum collection. Make a replica of a paper lantern that is fitting for an important museum of antiquities.

Materials

white drawing paper or construction paper, 12 x 18 inches
paints, markers, or crayons
scissors, tape, stapler
decorations such as glitter, yarn, tassels, gold stickers, fancy paper, sequins



Chinese Lanterns *(continued)*

Directions

1. Choose designs and colors for your lantern that follow ancient Chinese motifs. One idea would be to include animals, plants, and scenes from nature, and to use the color red which is considered lucky and is commonly used on Chinese lanterns.
2. Draw your design horizontally on the paper.
3. Fold the decorated paper the long way.
4. Cut along the long side from the fold stopping two inches from the open end. Make cuts every two inches.
5. Open the folded paper and staple the twelve-inch sides together at the top and bottom.
6. Cut a strip of paper six inches long and one-half inch wide. Glue or staple this strip of paper across one end of the lantern for the handle.
7. Decorate the lantern with glitter, tassels, gold stickers, sequins, or other decorations.

