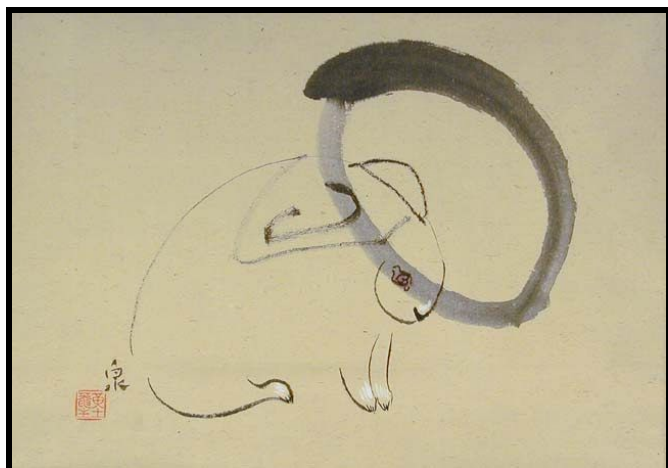


Mid-Autumn Festival Lanterns

The Mid-Autumn Festival is celebrated all over Asia during the Fall season. It is celebrated by eating sweet desserts and decorating with lots of beautiful lanterns! In this activity you will learn how to make unique versions of two traditional lanterns.



Moon and Rabbit (1986.79.22)



Legend of the Autumn Moon (1995.72.1)

What is the Mid-Autumn Festival? The Mid-Autumn festival started thousands of years ago in China as a way to celebrate the harvest time. The holiday is characterized by spending time with your family, watching lantern parades, and viewing the moon. Many households host poetry readings and make sweet mooncakes.

Prompts for Looking at Art:

Take a look at the art depicting the Mid-Autumn Festival in the USC Pacific Asia Museum's collection and at images of lanterns seen during the festival.

- What atmosphere do the lanterns create?
- What animal do you notice is often depicted?
- What legends or stories have you heard about the moon?



Moon Festival as the Moon Peeks over the mountain
Ink on Paper
Japan
1978.16.57
Gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Lowrie in memory of Mr. Robert T. Lowrie



Rabbit Shaped Lanterns during Mid-Autumn Festival, Hong Kong

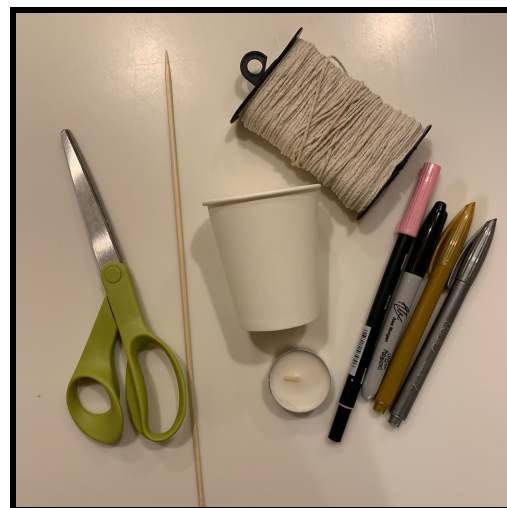


Lantern Installation, Singapore

Rabbit Lantern

Materials Needed:

- Paper cup
- Piece of paper (construction or cardstock works best)
- Scissors
- Coloring materials (paint/ markers/pastels/crayons)
- String
- Glue stick or tape
- Wooden stick (chock stick, skewer, or dowel)
- Optional: hole puncher
- Electric candle



Instructions:

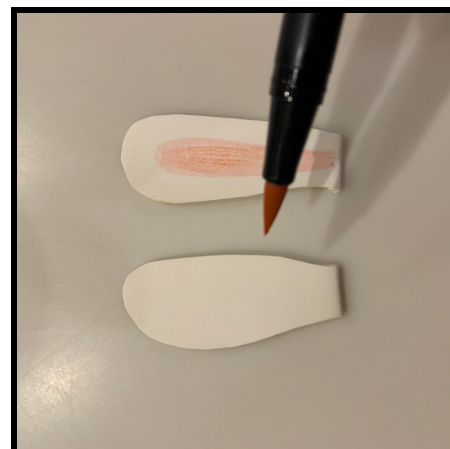
Step 1

Draw a cute rabbit face on your paper cup.



Step 2

Next, cut out two long ear shapes and color them to match your rabbit's face.



Step 3

Use tape or a glue stick to attach the ears to the inside of the cup, centering them above the rabbit's face.

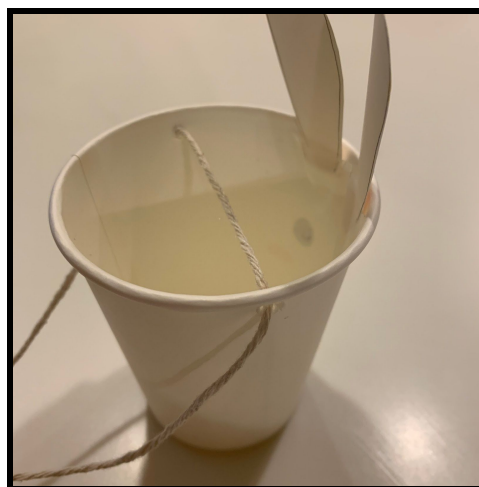


of

Step 4

Using a skewer or a hole punch, make two holes, one on each side of the paper cup. Next, thread a string through the two holes and tie the loose ends together.

Then, dab a drop of glue on the wooden stick and attach the string to it. This prevents the lantern from sliding around while you hold it.



Step 5

Lastly, put a candle into the cup. Electric candles are the safest option! Enjoy your new rabbit lantern and Happy Mid-Autumn Festival!



Tissue Box Lantern

Materials Needed:

- An empty cardboard box (tissue box or something similar)
- Scissors
- Paint and/or collage materials (construction paper/magazines)
- Paint brush
- Permanent Marker
- String
- Pencil
- Glue stick or tape
- Wooden stick (chock stick, skewer, or dowel)
- Wax paper
- Electric candle



Instructions:

Step 1

Cut out sides of the tissue box that are opposite of one another so that you can see directly through it.



Step 2

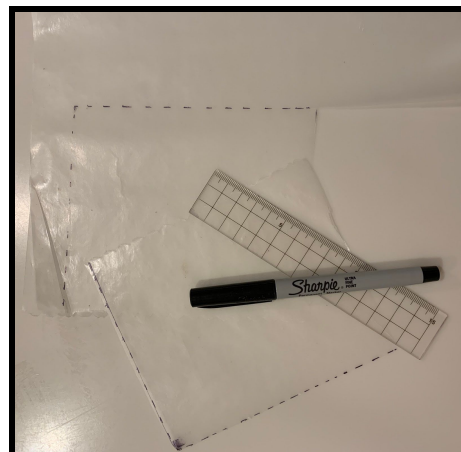
Paint your box any color you like or decorate it with construction paper and magazine pictures.

Tip: If you choose to paint your lantern a lighter color, it may take a few coats to make it fully covered.



Step 3

While the box dries, cut out two sheets of wax paper slightly larger than the size of the cut openings. You can do this by first measuring the dimensions of the tissue box sides and then tracing it on the wax paper. Add an inch on each side since (this will be used to attach the paper to the empty sides).



Step 4

Next, use a pencil to draw a design on each sheet of wax paper. This can be rabbit, moon, or any other symbol of the festival. Then, use a permanent marker to trace over the design!



Step 5

Next, fold down the half-inch sides of each wax paper panel and carefully fit them into the sides of the box. Use a glue stick or tape to secure the folds on the inside.



Step 6

Lastly, place a candle into the lantern. Electric candles are the safest option! Enjoy your new lantern and Happy Mid-Autumn Festival!

