Chinese Paper Lantern

Target age group: any age

Time you will need: This depends upon how much time the students want to spend coloring their dragons. For the average student, allow about an hour to complete the whole project.

Materials you will need:

Photocopies of pattern pages
Scissors
Crayons or colored pencils
Glue stick
White glue
Paper clips
Scotch tape
Thin yarn, or high-quality craft string (recommended colors: red, yellow, black, white)

Directions:

1) Make photocopies of the pattern pages. I recommend using card stock, but regular paper will work, too. If you want to use colored paper, you might want to consider yellow or orange for the dragon and red or yellow for the exterior lantern. The Chinese most often use red and black when making decorations.

2) Color the dragon using crayons or colored pencils.

3) Follow the assembly instructions given.

To make your lantern this shape you must use an X-acto knife and a ruler, and have adult help. Instead of folding paper, keep paper open and cut long slits, using the dots as your guide.

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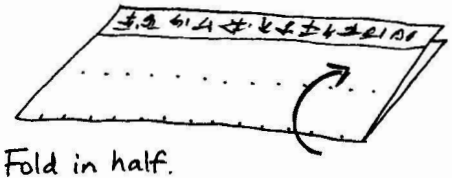
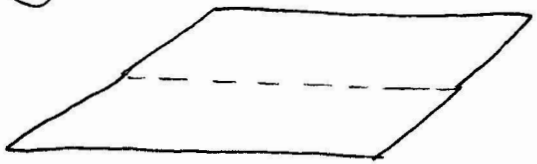
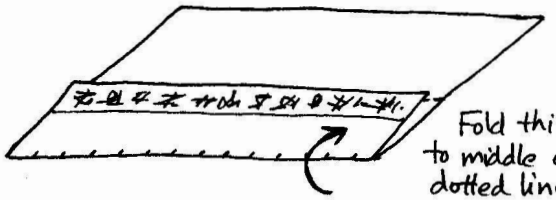
① 

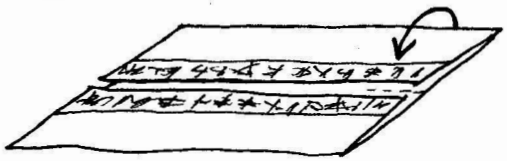
Fold in half.

② 

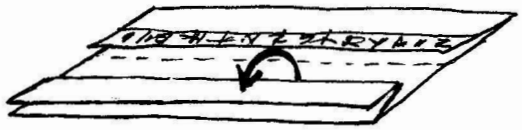
Open back up again.

③ 

Fold this side to middle on dotted line.

④ 

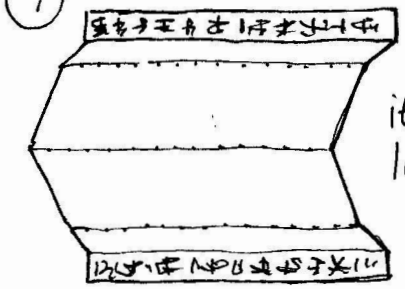
Do the same on the other side.

⑤ 

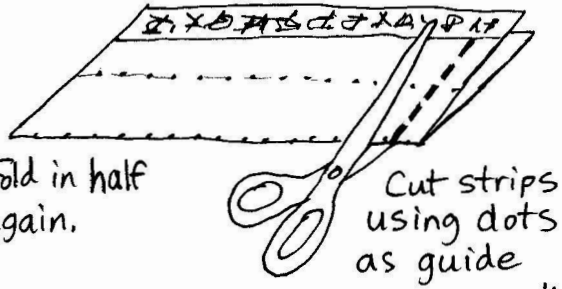
Fold the calligraphy strip back.

⑥

Do the same on the other side.

⑦ 

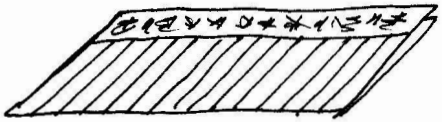
If you open it up, it should look like this.

⑧ 

Fold in half again.

Cut strips using dots as guide

Stop cutting at calligraphy strip!!

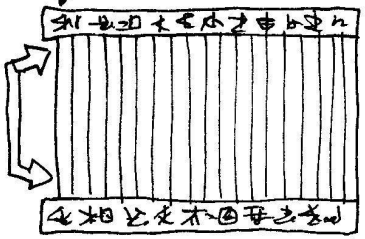
⑨ 

Shows cut strips. Make sure cuts go <u>all</u> the way to calligraphy strip!

(10)

Cut strip off bottom of dragon picture. Set aside. (This will become the handle.)

(11)



Cut one bar off the left side of the lantern.

NOTE: If you don't know which way is right-side-up, use the picture on the right to compare to the first character on the strip.

Good Luck

(12)

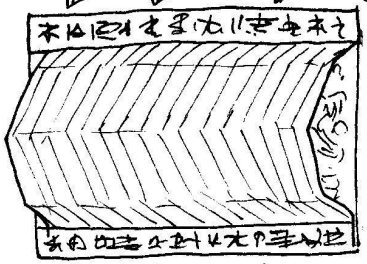
Rub glue stick along edges.

Use lots of glue stick - you want good adhesion.

Glue on bottom edge, too!

(13)

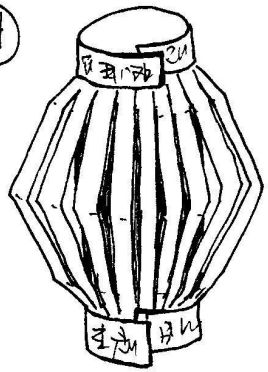
press and hold



Make sure lantern is adhered solidly to dragon page.

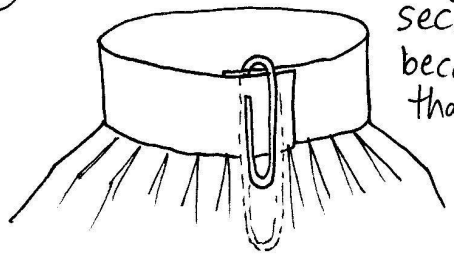
press and hold

(14)

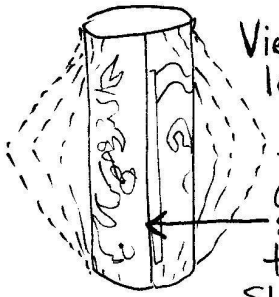


Wrap lantern into cylinder, overlapping onto missing bar.

(15) I recommend white glue to secure overlap because it is stronger than glue stick. Secure with paper clip until dry, then remove clip.



(16)



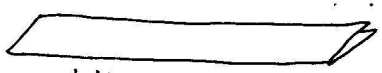
View under lantern

The overlap should come to banner rod.

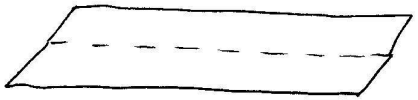
Stick a small amount of glue in crack and press tight.

(17) Make the handle:

Fold in half longways.

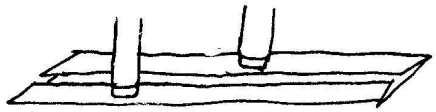


Like so.



Open up again.

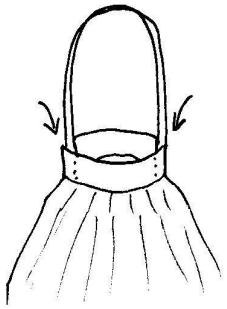
Fold into the middle again



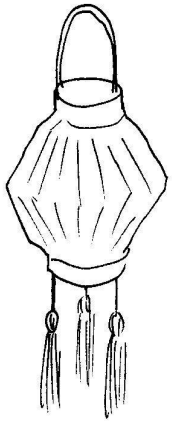
Apply glue stick liberally along these sides.

Fold over and press tight.

(18) Insert handle into lantern and glue with white glue.



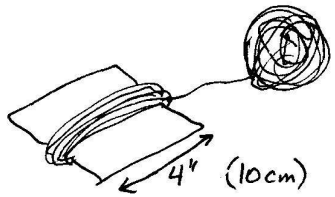
(19) Add tassles, if desired.



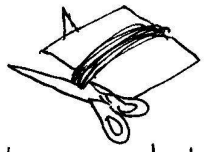
(Simply tape them up inside using Scotch tape.)

NOTE: In China, 4 is considered an unlucky number, So you should put 3 or 5 tassles on the lantern.

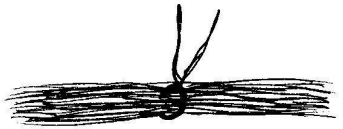
(20) To make tassles:



Wind string around a piece of cardboard. Wrap about 25-30 times.



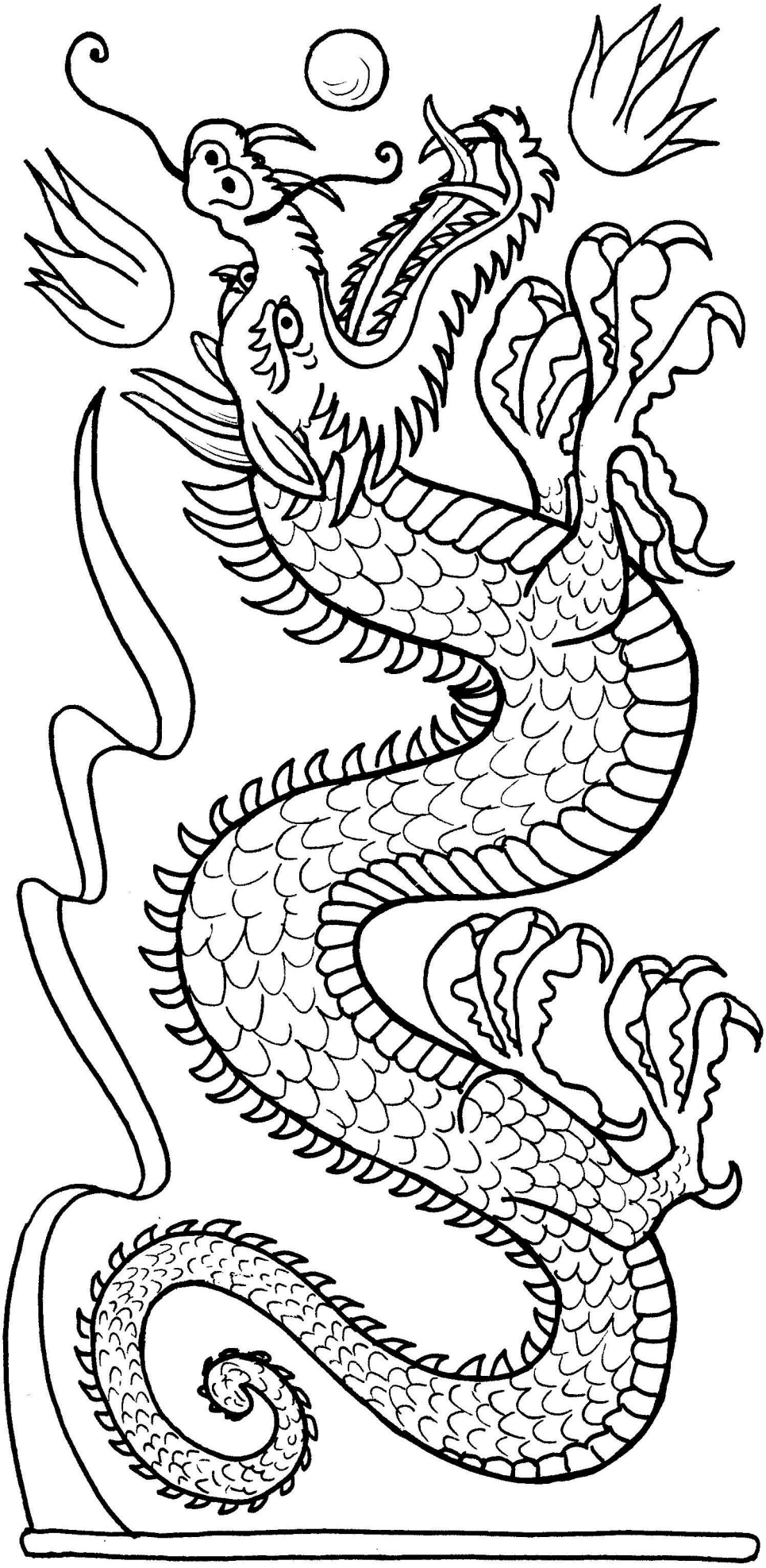
Cut one end. Lay bundle out



Tie in the middle

Fold bundle over,
← Tie here.

← trim at bottom if necessary



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