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.
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.

9. Cut strips using dots as guide. Stop cutting at calligraphy strip!

Shows cut strips. Make sure cuts go all 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.

12. Rub glue stick along edges. Use lots of glue stick - you want good adhesion.

13. Press and hold. Make sure lantern is adhered solidly to dragon page.

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 long ways.
- 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.

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.

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