

Paper Lanterns

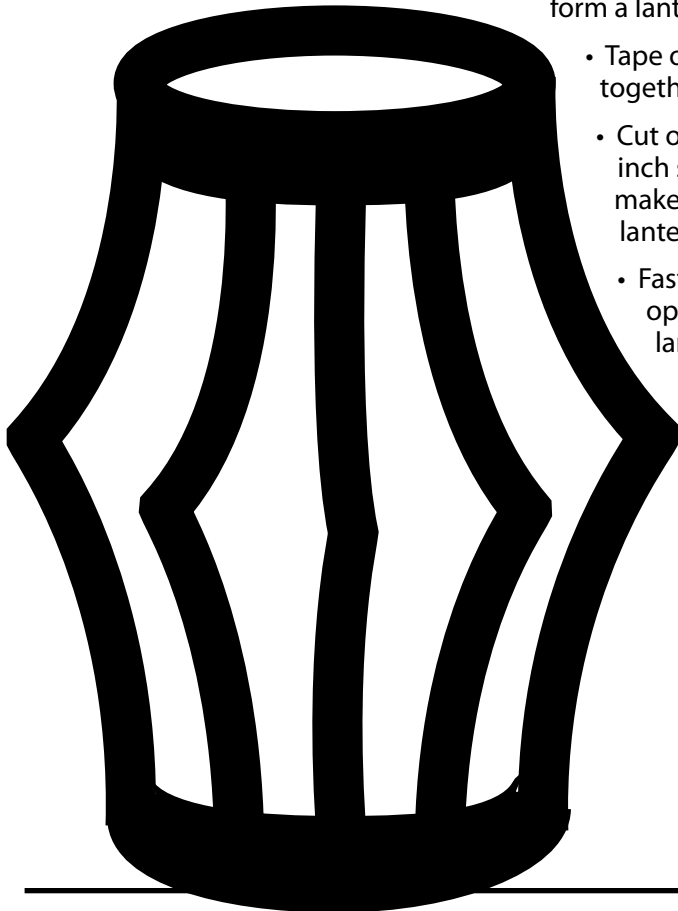
Children can practice fine motor skills while making a colorful holiday decoration.

What you need:

- Construction paper or any light weight paper
- Markers, crayons, or stickers
- Safety scissors
- Washable craft glue or tape

What to do:

- The children can decorate the paper using markers, crayons, or stickers. Colored paper may also be used for the lanterns.
- Fold the paper in half lengthwise.
- Cut lines, one inch apart, beginning at the folded edge of the paper to within one inch of the other side. Leave a one-inch border on all the open sides.
- Open the paper, then roll the shorter sides until they meet and form a lantern shape.



- Tape or glue the edges together at each end.
- Cut one-inch by eleven-inch strips of paper to make handles for the lanterns.
- Fasten a handle strip to opposite sides of the lantern, securing with tape or glue.
- Hang the lanterns around the room for bright decorations.

Bookmark Cutouts

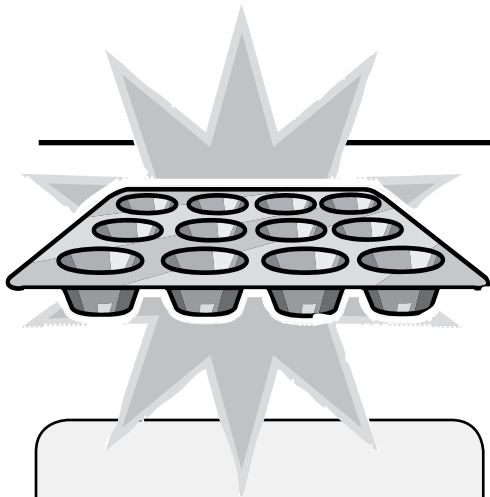
The children can make a bookmark to give to a family member or friend.

What you need:

- Construction paper – two different colors
- Safety scissors
- Pencil
- Washable craft glue
- Paper punch
- Yarn

What to do:

- Cut the construction paper into two-inch by seven-inch strips. Be sure to have two contrasting colors.
- Fold one strip in half length-wise.
- On the fold of that strip draw half of a shape. This can be half a tree outline, half a heart, shapes such as circles, squares or triangles, or any shape the child chooses.
- Draw two or three of the shapes on the folded edge, then cut them out.
- Open that strip, then glue it to the solid strip to make the book mark.
- After it dries, punch a hole at the top edge and tie a strand or two of yarn through the hole.



Can You Count in Muffin Tins?

Tape a small circle of paper with a number on each to the bottom of each section of a muffin tin. Depending on the size of your muffin tin you may have six, eight, or twelve numbers. Give the children some small items to count. Then have them put these in the section of the muffin tin that matches that number. You can use pennies, buttons, paper clips, cereal, or any small items for this activity.

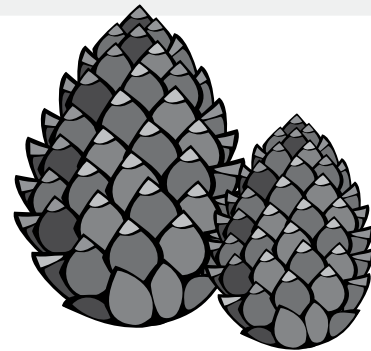
*** Due to small pieces that may be choking hazards, this activity is not recommended for children under three years of age.**

Building a Snowman – Finger Play Activity

Have the children make some paper balls by scrunching up old newspapers or magazine pages. Teach them the finger play and they can throw the paper balls at the end.

Finger play:

- I will build a snowman. (Pretend to roll snow into a ball)
- Make him big and tall. (Roll, then pile that snow ball on top of the other one)
- See if you can hit him
- With this big snowball! (Throw paper balls at the snowman)



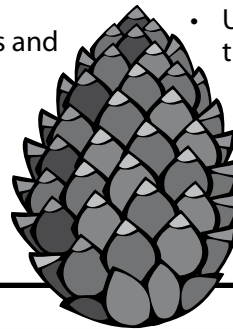
Pine Cone Trees

What you need:

- Pine cones of different sizes (those with flat bottoms work best for this activity)
- Tempera paint – use three or four colors including white
- Paint brushes
- Washable craft glue
- Glitter or glitter glue
- Safety scissors
- Wrapping paper scraps and ribbon and yarn scraps

What to do:

- Place the pine cones so they are sitting on their flat bottom side. They look like trees when they sit this way.
- The children can decorate the pine cones using paint, glitter, wrapping paper scraps, or a combination of any of those materials.
- Allow the pine cone trees to dry.
- Use as decorations around the room.



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