

Playdough Mooncakes Activity

Learn About Mooncakes!

A mooncake is an Asian pastry traditionally served during the Mid-Autumn Festival. Mooncakes are enjoyed by families and friends as they give thanks to their harvest and appreciate the moon. Many mooncakes take on a round shape to honor the full moon. However, mooncakes have evolved into many shapes and sizes. These tasty treats are loved by people in Eastern and Southeastern Asian countries including China, Thailand, Japan (geppei), Vietnam (bánh trung thu), and many more!



Make a mooncake that will last!

Materials:

- Playdough (store bought or homemade)
- Mooncake molds

Instructions

- Select the mooncake's filling. Common filling flavors are red bean paste, lotus seed paste, and egg yolk.
- Roll your playdough filling into a ball.
- Make the mooncake's outer layer. Choose another color and roll it into a ball, then press the ball flat. Make sure the edges are thinner than the center.
- Cover the filling by wrapping the outer layer around the filling and rolling it into a bigger ball.
- Mold your mooncake by placing the ball inside the mold and pushing firmly.

BONUS: Homemade Playdough Recipe

Materials

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup fine table salt
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar or alum
- 1/2 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup hot water
- Food coloring of choice
- 1 large plastic bowl
- 1 medium plastic bowl
- a whisk or spoon to mix



Instructions

- In your large plastic bowl, whisk together flour, salt, and cream of tartar (or alum)
- Mix vegetable oil, hot water, and food coloring in your medium-sized bowl
- Slowly add the liquids to your large bowl to combine
- When the dough is cool enough to touch, use your hands to knead the mixture
- Let the playdough completely cool before using it
- Store the homemade playdough in a plastic bag or food storage container at room temperature

Moon Bunny Bag Activity

Learn About the Legend of the Jade Rabbit

The Jade rabbit also known as the moon rabbit is a mythical character in East Asian folklore who lives on the moon.

Various stories about the Jade rabbit are shared during Mid-Autumn festival celebrations. In some versions, the rabbit pounds an elixir of immortality or rice cakes in mortar and pestle. Though the rabbit's role or actions vary across regions and stories, it is commonly recognized as a symbol of longevity and harvest.



Materials

- Different colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Glitter
- Cotton ball
- Rabbit cutout (optional)
- Moon cutout (optional)

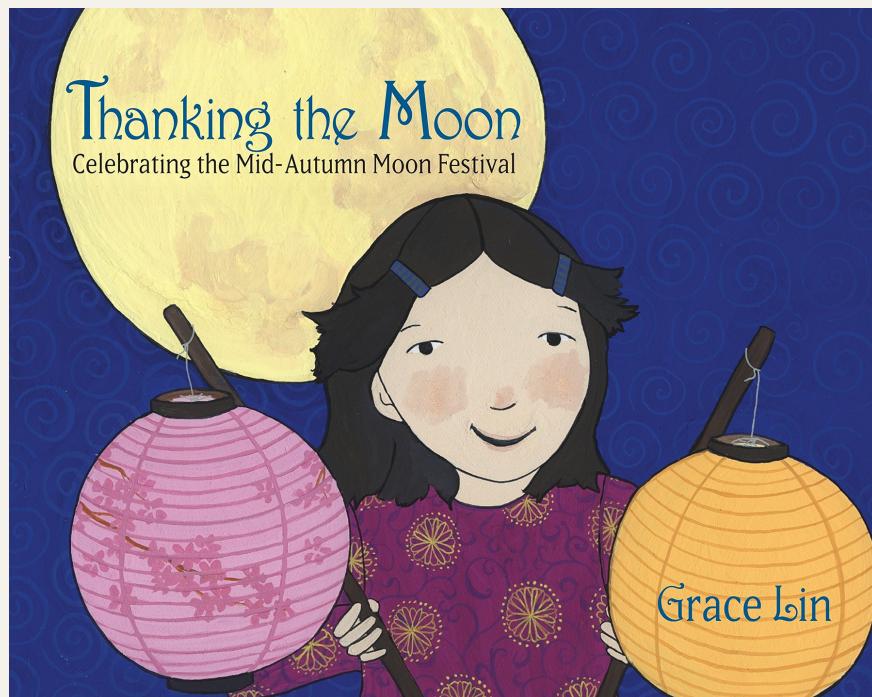
Instructions

- Cut out your bunny, moon, and lanterns
- Make small folds on the lantern pieces to give it a 3D look
- Organize your pieces on your paper bag to your liking
- Glue your background sheet then your moon, lanterns, and bunny

Thanking the Moon Writing Activity

Thanking the Moon follows a Chinese American family as they celebrate the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival.

Each member of the family lends a hand as they prepare a moonlit picnic with mooncakes, pomelos, cups of tea, and colorful lanterns. And everyone sends thanks and a secret wish up to the moon.



Choose one of the prompts to write about in honor of the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival.

- Think about your secret wish. Without revealing it, write about how you would feel if your wish came true.
- The Mid-Autumn Festival is a time where people show gratitude. What are you thankful for? Write about it below.

