

Family Activity

Middle Eastern Lantern

If you travel to the Middle East and roam the bazaars, shops, and vendor stalls, you'll find beautiful, colorful lanterns set aglow with candles, oils, or electricity. The detailed patterns of color are artfully designed to light up the night.

Known as Fanous, meaning lamp or light in Arabic, the origin of the lanterns dates back to back a thousand years ago to the holy month of Ramadan in 969 A.D. Today, lanterns are a part of Ramadan traditions for Muslims in many parts of the world. During the nights of Ramadan, lanterns illuminate streets, tents, and homes in a sea of color. The lanterns symbolize light guiding the way, keeping people safe throughout the night.

Follow along with our instructions to make your own lantern.



MATERIALS

White sheet of paper

Pencil and eraser

Colored pencils, markers, or crayons
(anything that is available)

Scissors

Glue stick or scotch tape

Optional:

Tissue paper or any colored paper

Small battery operated
tea lights

Sequins, acrylic gems,
or glitter

CRAFT DIRECTIONS

1. Take a sheet of white paper. Keeping it horizontal, fold it in half and repeat by folding it in half again, to get four folded sections. Keeping the sheet folded into fourths, fold it once more.
2. On its folded side, draw just half a motif (for example, a semicircle, half-triangle, half a flower, or a heart). Keeping the sheet folded, cut out the motifs that you have just traced.
3. Open the sheet. Draw a design on the first section. Repeat the pattern on the rest of the three sections. Color the pattern.
Optional: Place a tissue or a colored paper under your cutwork sheet and carefully paste it down.
4. Join the two ends of the sheet using the glue stick or scotch tape; it will resemble a cylinder. Carefully pinch each fold to create a four-sided shape.
5. Embellish your lantern with sequins, gems, or glitter if desired. Place a small battery-operated tea light for a "lit-up" effect. Or hold your paper lantern over a flashlight for similar effect.
6. Enjoy the noor and let your light shine!

**FOLLOW ALONG WITH THESE DIRECTIONS
IN OUR INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO:**

<https://youtu.be/9Msjqx15zSQ>