Introduction:
Morocco is a tiny country that is located in the northwestern part of Africa. It is just one tenth larger than California in size yet has a fascinating history. Originally a stronghold of the Romans, its ethnic people known as *Berbers* have lived there since 2 BCE. In 7 AD the Arab conquest introduced Islam to the country. Today, the majority of the Moroccans are Muslims. However, due to its close proximity to Europe, especially to the *Iberian Peninsula*, Spain and Portugal played an important role in its political and cultural development from the 15th century onwards. In 1912, it became a French *protectorate* until 1956 when Morocco finally became an independent country. Its capital is *Rabat*.

Nestled between the Mediterranean and the Aegean seas, Morocco is a beautiful country, attracting visitors from around the world. The famous traveler *Ibn Battuta* on visiting Morocco remarked, “*It is the best of countries, for in it fruits are plentiful, with running water and nourishing food which is never exhausted.*”

With the blend of so many interesting cultures, Moroccan arts and crafts emerged into a unique style of its own. Artifacts like Moroccan lanterns became popular world over for their beauty.

**Being inspired by their unique art, our project focuses on creating paper lanterns to complement Moroccan Lanterns.**

Materials:
- White sheet of paper (Keep an extra one handy if required).
- Pencil and eraser
- Colored pencils, markers, OR crayons (anything that is available)
- Scissors
- Glue stick /scotch tape
- *Optional* - Tissue paper or any colored paper
- *Optional* - small battery operated tea lights
- *Optional* - Sequins, acrylic gems or glitter
DIRECTIONS:

* You may wish to watch the video accompanying the directions. It can make the project simpler and more meaningful to follow. However, the steps below also explain.

1. Take a sheet of white paper. Keeping it horizontally, fold it in half and repeat by folding it further in half, to get 4 folded sections.
2. Keeping the sheet folded into fourths, fold it once more. (See image showing the thin folded sheet).
3. On its folded side, draw just half a motif. (example, a semi circle, half triangle, half a flower, heart etc.) (See image)
4. Keeping the sheet still folded, cut out the motifs (shapes you have just traced).
5. Open the sheet. Draw a design on the first section. Repeat the pattern on the rest of the three sections, as seen in the image above. Color the pattern.
6. Optional. Place a tissue or a colored paper under your cutwork sheet and carefully paste it down.
7. Join the two ends of the sheet using the glue stick or scotch tape. (It will resemble a cylinder).
8. Carefully pinch each fold to create a 4-sided shape.
9. Optional- embellish your lantern with sequins, gems or glitter if desired.
10. Optional- place a small battery operated tea light for a “lit up” effect OR hold your paper lantern over a flashlight for similar effect!
11. Enjoy the noor and let your light shine!