

Name:

Japanese Batik Lanterns

Lanterns

Japanese paper lanterns are bright colorful ways to decorate a room or garden. The lanterns can be designed to be strung together or can stand alone on a table. Traditional paper lanterns are made out of bamboo and handmade paper and are often ornately decorated. As you can see in the example pictures, the lanterns can be rectangular, square, or spheres.



The first lanterns used in Japan were actually introduced by China. They were made out of metal and were used to light doorways to shrines and temples. Eventually they began making ceramic or stone lanterns that lit the paths to the shrines. Stone lanterns are an integral part of the landscape in a Japanese garden. They are carefully placed to create the desired mood.

Paper lanterns are used in celebration and for special holidays like weddings and birthdays. They are also used for spiritual observances. For example, in Hiroshima during the “Feast of Lanterns,” colored lanterns are lighted at ancestors’ graves and some are floated down rivers.



Papermaking has long been a part of Japanese culture; it is an important traditional art. Handmade papers are used for books, screens, shades, and more. Paper can be made from many natural fibers including rice, flowers, onions, bark, etc. Different materials give the papers different qualities and appearances.

Batik

Batiking is a way of decorating fabric in Indonesia. Hot wax is applied to fabric before it is soaked in fabric dye. The areas covered by the wax are protected and do not soak up the dye. When the wax is removed the original color of the fabric is revealed.

For a short time Japan occupied Indonesia. The Japanese were highly influenced by the batik process and they began incorporating it into their crafts and artworks.

PROJECT

For this project we will be creating our own Japanese lanterns. We will be creating the side panels from ordinary coffee filters using a batik process. When the panels are finished we will construct the lanterns. You can make a hanging or standing lantern, but unfortunately, neither lantern can have a light source inside of it. **WARNING!!** Please **DO NOT** put a candle or light bulb inside your lantern: it will easily catch fire! These lanterns are only for decoration.

Before you begin, you need to create a design or pattern for the sides of your lantern. In the boxes below, create 3 thumbnail sketches. We will enlarge these and transfer them to the filters before applying wax and dye.

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