

## Chinese Paper Lanterns

### Background:

The Lantern Festival also known as yuán xiāo, is celebrated on the first moon of the new lunar year, or the 15<sup>th</sup> day and last day of the Chinese New Year. During this day people gather on the streets and raise their lanterns after nightfall.

Thousands of the colorful lanterns are also hung and strung across streets and around homes for others to appreciate. Many of the lanterns contain elaborate scenes, calligraphy, and riddles. Furthermore, people try to solve the puzzles on lanterns and eat yuán xiāo, a glutinous rice ball, uniting families in a joyful atmosphere

### Directions:

1. Choose a lantern template.
2. Color the picture and draw additional decorations if you'd like.
3. Following the solid lines, cut out the handle and then the lantern body.
4. Fold the body of the lantern in half along the center line.
5. Cut along the seven (7) dotted lines, starting from the center line. Do NOT cut beyond the dots.
6. Apply glue to the right side of the page where it says "glue". Glue the sides of the lantern body together. Then glue the handle on the top.

Congratulations! You have completed your Chinese paper lantern!