



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

People around the world ring in the New Year in different ways. The New Year is a time for new beginnings. Things are cleaned, put in order, or discarded. It is important to start the New Year on a positive note. A little bit of good luck helps too!

Chinese New Year is celebrated around the world by people with Asian roots. The festivities last for weeks. Chinese New Year's Day is always the first day of the first month of the Chinese lunar calendar. This changes every year but usually falls in late January or early February. Everyone takes part in housecleaning to sweep out the old and welcome in the new.

Red pocket envelopes contain 'lucky money.' Traditionally, parents gave this money to their children to bribe Nian, a horrible monster that would return once a year to wreak havoc before returning to the forest. Now the envelopes can be given and received by anyone. The amount of money varies and is much larger today than it was in the past. Today there are even red envelope apps and emojis. 🧧

The Lantern Festival (Yuan Xiao) is the 3-day climax of the Chinese New Year holiday. It is a celebration of family and community. Activities include moon-gazing, lighting lanterns, telling riddles, lion and dragon dances, stilt performers, and eating rice balls. The dragon parade is a highlight. A dragon made of paper, silk, and bamboo winds through the streets amid lanterns and firecrackers.



PAPER LANTERN INSTRUCTIONS



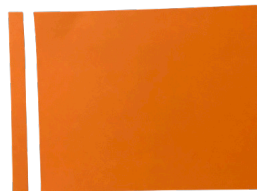
Craft kit materials:

- 1 piece of coloured cardstock
- Lantern template (optional)

You will also need:

- Scissors
- Tape
- Ruler (optional)

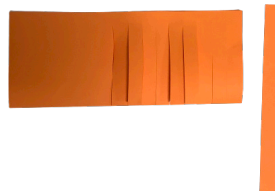
1. Cut a narrow strip (about 1 cm wide) off the short end of the piece of cardstock.



2. Fold the large piece of cardstock in half lengthwise.

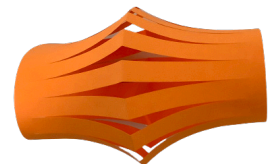


3. Cut parallel lines, 1-2 cm apart, in from the fold to within 1-2 cm of the open edge.



TIP: Look at the template to see where the cuts should be.

4. Unfold the piece of cardstock. Wrap the cardstock around to form a round lantern. The fold should bulge out around the middle.



5. Ask an adult to help tape the lantern together at the top and bottom.



6. Tape the narrow strip of cardstock to the top of the lantern at both ends to form a handle.



Need a few pointers? Catch our instructional video on the **Museum @ Home** section of our website:
www.heritagemuseum.ca

Lambton Heritage Museum wishes you a safe and happy holiday season!