

# Chinese Paper Lanterns

Invented by the Chinese about 2,000 years ago during the Han dynasty, paper lanterns of many shapes and colors are displayed during the Lantern Festival, which follows the Chinese New Year. Lanterns are made of paper and bamboo sticks and are sometimes made in the shapes of butterflies, fruits, animals, and fish. Red is a very important color to the Chinese and represents all things that are good; therefore it is frequently used in their arts and crafts. After the Civil War, Chinese workers immigrated to the Mississippi Delta to work on plantations. Over time they became merchants and opened grocery stores throughout the Delta where many Chinese Americans still reside.

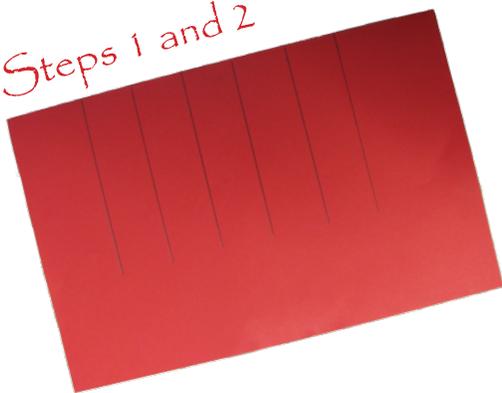
## Materials:

- Sheet of red construction paper
- Sheet of yellow construction paper or tissue paper
- Scissors
- Gluestick or stapler
- String
- Hole punch

## Directions:

1. Fold red paper in half horizontally.
2. From folded edge, cut 5-6 strips one inch apart.
3. Turning the paper vertically, lap one end of paper over other end and use a gluestick or staples to fasten them together.
4. Using gluestick or staples, attach a paper handle to top of lantern on both sides or punch holes and thread string between them.
5. Crumple sheet of yellow construction paper or tissue paper and put in lantern to resemble light.

Steps 1 and 2



Step 3



The Final Product!