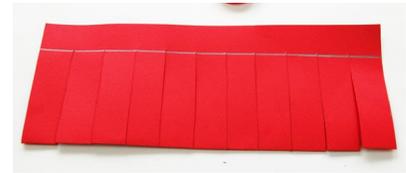


Chinese Lantern

Supplies

- paper or cardstock (preferably red or yellow)
- Scissors, ruler
- stapler or tape
- Glue
- pencil
- gift wrap paper
- washi tape
- ribbons
- sequins, stickers, glitter glue, and small buttons

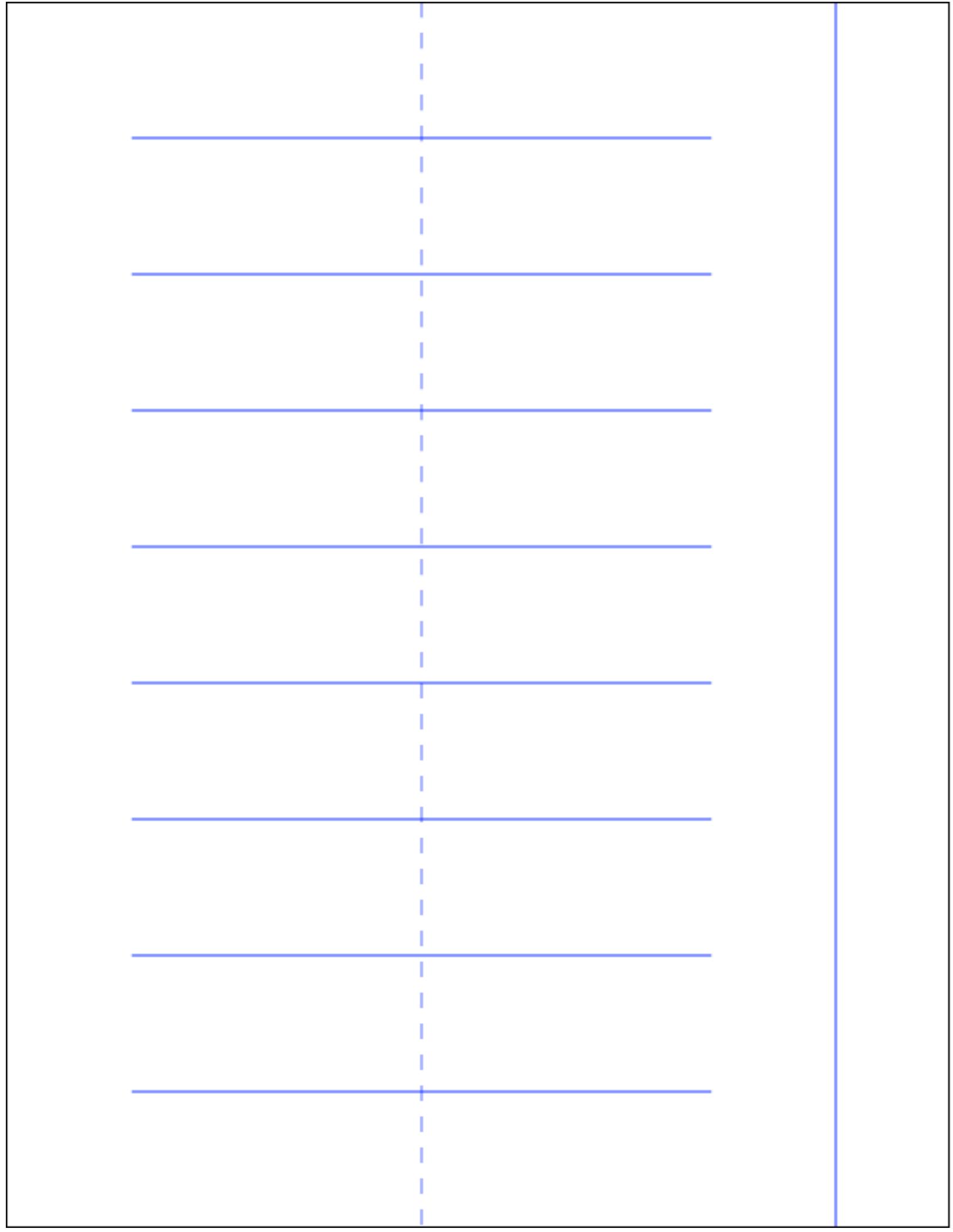


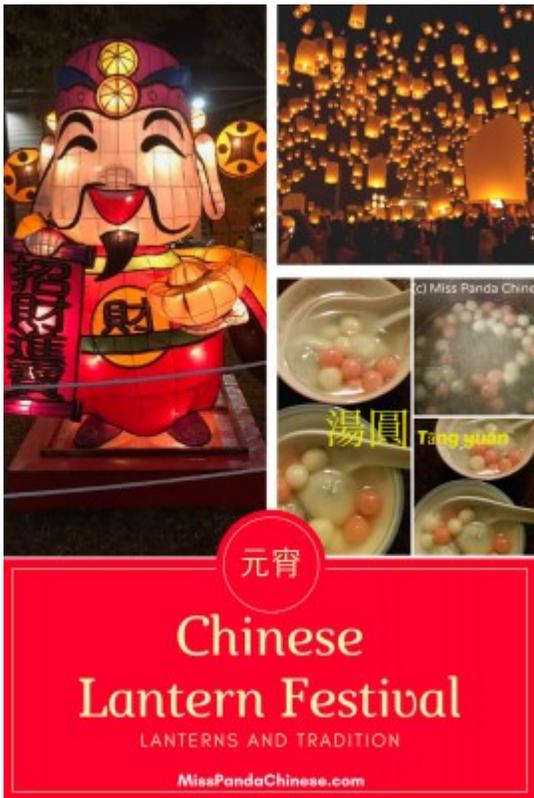
Instructions

1. Use the lantern template print on red or yellow for a Chinese-themed lantern, or choose any color preferred.
2. Cut a 1-inch wide strip off on one short side. Set this aside for the handle.
3. Fold the paper in half, lengthwise. Draw a horizontal line one inch from the long edge opposite the fold.
4. Starting from the folded edge, cut a straight line about an inch from one short edge, all the way up to the horizontal line.
5. Continue to cut more straight lines about 1 inch apart until you reach the opposite short edge of the paper. Remember that the horizontal line marks the point where you stop cutting each straight line. Unfold the paper. The paper will have several vertical slits along the middle.
6. Decorate the top and bottom edge. Transform the paper into a lantern by forming it into a tube shape. Overlap the long edges at least ½-inch. Staple or tape at the top and bottom of the overlap.
7. Take the paper handle and glue the ends on the inside of the lantern's top edge.

**Thank you
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The preparations for Chinese New Year start on the 23rd day of the last month on the Chinese lunar calendar. On this day, the tradition is to send the “kitchen god” (the protector of the family and the most important of Chinese domestic gods in Chinese mythology) back to the sky to report to the Jade Emperor (the supreme ruler of all heaven and earth) about how the family has been doing the whole year.

Out with the Old and In with the New –

The next few days see a major cleaning of the house. All clutter should be removed, the house dusted from ceiling to floor and the bedding in each room thoroughly washed. “Chu jiu bu xin” (除舊佈新 remove the old and decorate the new) is the concept behind this major clean up.

We are also welcoming the new year by posting lucky, red paper spring scrolls on the front door. Phrases or words

like “xin nián kuài lè” (新年快樂 Happy New Year); “Gong xǐ fa cái” (恭喜發財 congratulations and prosperity) and “ Fú” (福 Good for-

Red Envelopes – Hong bao – 紅包

After the family meal, it is time to say lucky words to grandparents and parents and it is time for the Red Envelope. In my family we use the traditional Chinese style, we kneel down in front of Mom and Dad and bow to say auspicious phrases like:

- Happy New Year
- Good Health
- May everything go as you wish
- Congratulations and prosperity



Then Mom and Dad give each of us a red envelope with cash in it. Instead of spending the cash right away the tradition is to put the red envelope under your pillow and so that it will keep you young and healthy.

The 15th day of the Chinese New Year – Lantern Festival 元宵節。元宵節 –Yuán xiāo jié. Lantern festival marks the completion and the end of the Chinese New Year celebration.

Thank you
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