

Filipino Parol

art + social studies

In the Philippines, during the Festival of Lights, the traditional bamboo and paper parol (puh-roll), or star lantern, symbolizes the victory of light over darkness as well as hope and goodwill. All throughout the festival season, star-shaped lanterns can be seen hanging outside homes and along the streets of cities and small provincial towns, farms and fishing villages. Around Manila, parols made of Capiz shell or plastic illuminate the city. One of the most spectacular sights can be seen in the city of San Fernando where 20-foot tall parols with flashing lights are paraded through the streets on truck beds.

The first parol were inspired by Chinese lanterns and the Mexican piñatas brought by missionaries to the Philippines. Bamboo reeds formed the star shape, which was then covered with Japanese rice paper and illuminated from within by a candle.

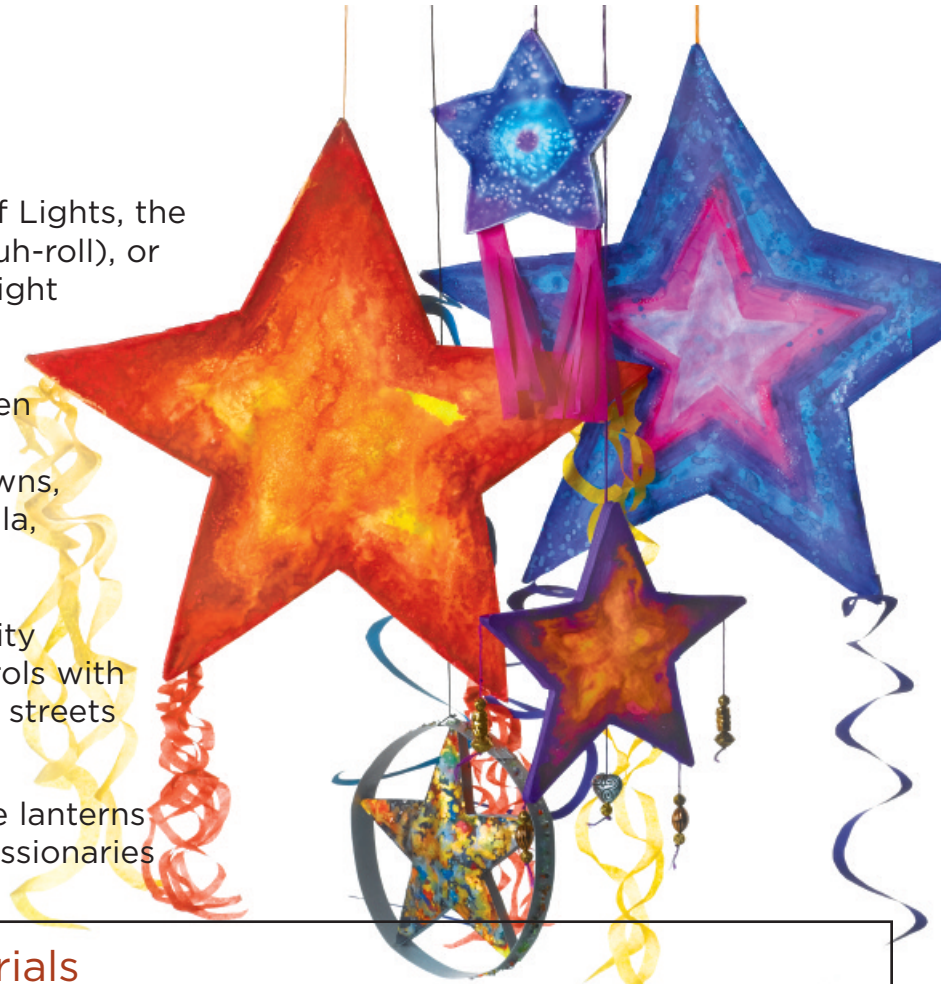
This simplified design can be easily constructed by children, then painted with brilliant watercolors. Displayed in a window or hanging from a light fixture, they make colorful, festive decorations for any season.

Grade Levels 3-8

Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

Preparation

1. Cut the reed from the coil. For small (6.5") stars, cut 30" lengths. For large (14") stars, cut 56" lengths.



Materials

Natural Reed, 3/8" flat (60961-1038); one 265-ft coil will make 100 small or 50 large parol

Masa Japanese Paper (10409-1003), 21" x 31" sheet; one sheet will make 12 small or two large parol

Blick® Liquid Watercolor, 8-oz bottles; need at least three assorted colors, such as:
Glitter Yellow (00369-4015),
Metallic Gold (00369-9015),
Red (00369-3005)

Blick® Economy Camel Hair Brushes, size 6 round (05153-1006); need one per student

Blick® Plastic Ruler (55403-1012); need one per student

Rapid® Stapler (57236-2050); need 3-4 to share across classroom

Delta® Sobo® Glue, 4-oz (23820-1004); share four bottles across classroom

Armada™ Velvet Touch Scissors (57062-2005); one per student

Small Rubber Bands

Larger water containers for soaking reed

OPTIONAL:

Salt

Blick® Construction Paper, 50-sheet assortment of 10 colors (11409-1003); share one 9" x 12" package across classroom

Blick® Art Tissue, 100-sheet assortment of 20 colors (11308-1007); share one 12" x 18" package across classroom

Paper punch (58904-1005)

Preparation , continued

2. Soak the reed in water for 10 minutes before using.
3. Cut Masa paper slightly larger than the stars. For small stars, cut 7" squares of Masa. For large stars, cut 15" squares.

Note: while other papers may be used for this project, Masa is recommended for its strength, paintable surface and translucent quality (the colors of the parol look best with light shining through).

Process

1. Using a ruler, measure and mark on the reed with a pencil to determine the size of the star's sides. For small (6.5") stars, measure 2.5". For large stars, measure 5". Bend the reed on the pencil mark.
2. Fold the reed in a zig-zag fashion, keeping all sides approximately the same size see (A). Make 10 folds and secure with a rubber band. Allow reed to dry.
3. Remove rubber band and unfold into a star shape. Two sides will overlap each other — staple together, see (B).
4. Run glue along one edge of the reed and lay the star glue-side-down on the paper. Place a book or other heavy object on the star to weigh it down while drying.
5. When the glue has dried, cut the star out with scissors and paint it with watercolors. Blick® Liquid Watercolors are recommended for their brilliant, intense color. Some techniques to try:
 - Wet the paper with clear water and allow the paint to flow freely.
 - Sprinkle table salt into the paint while it's wet to create random starburst effects.
 - Combine regular colors, metallics, glitter paint and fluorescents for visual impact.
 - Put paint in small atomizer bottles (02912-1003) and spritz onto the paper.

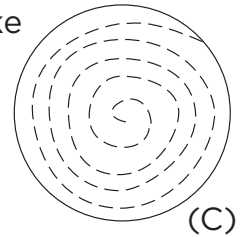


6. Paint the edges and the back side of the reed. When dry, paint the back side of the star.
7. Place a drop of glue in the top point of the star and glue a string or wire to it for hanging. Display in a window or near a light fixture for brightest color.

NOTE: For safety, always keep paper parol away from open flame. Do not allow paper to come in direct contact with, or cover, a light bulb.

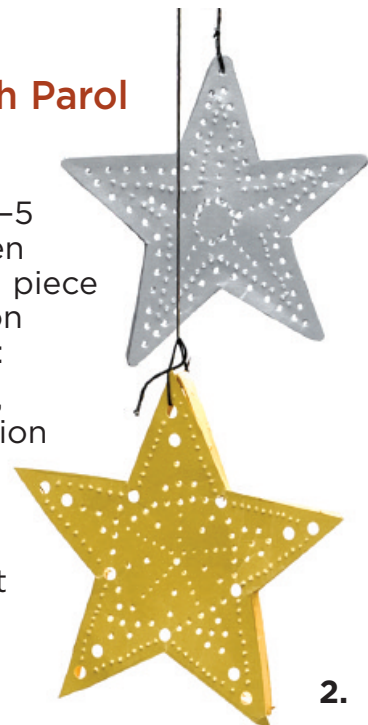
Finishing Options:

1. Make streamers from construction paper or tissue paper to glue to the points of the parol. To make a spiral streamer, cut a circle approximately 2.5" in diameter (for tissue paper, use 3-4 layers). Cut a spiral from the outer edge of the circle to the center, see (C).
2. Cut a 1/2" wide strip of Blick Construction Card in a coordinating color and glue it to the points of the star so that it forms a circle around it. Staple the edges of the construction paper together.
3. Make strands of metallic beads (60776-1001) on string or wire and glue to the points of the star.
4. Add more sparkle with Creativity Street® Sequins (60718-1001), Rhinestones (61762-1001), Sparkle Bits (61763-1001) or Glitter Glue (61759-1006).



Make a Paper Punch Parol

1. Make a Paper Punch Parol without using paint. Follow steps 1-5 to make the star, then trace the star onto a piece of heavy construction paper. Recommend:
 - For metallic colors, use Blick® Construction Card in Silver (11408-2599) or Gold (11408-4079)
 - If using near a light source, use



Paper Punch Parol Option, continued

Tru-Ray® Flame-Away™ construction paper for safety. NOTE: Flame-Away™ is certified by NFPA No. 701 to be flame-retardant, but is not fireproof. Keep away from open flame.

2. With a magazine or newspaper stacked beneath to protect the tabletop, punch holes in a pattern on the star. Use nails, an Awl (0510-1045) or Fiskars® Hand Punches, in a variety of shapes including 1/8" Heart (58923-1010).
3. Glue the punched star to the paper and allow to dry.
4. Paint the reed to match the star color, using Blick Matte Acrylic Paint in assorted colors, including White (00727-1025).

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National Standards

Content Standard #2 — Using knowledge of structures and functions

5-8 Students employ organizational structures and analyze what makes them effective or not effective in the communication of ideas

9-12 Students create multiple solutions to specific visual arts problems that demonstrate competence in producing effective relationships between structural choices and artistic functions

Content Standard #4 — Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures

5-8 Students analyze, describe and demonstrate how factors of time and place (such as climate, resources, ideas and technology) influence visual characteristics that give meaning and value to a work of art

9-12 Students analyze relationships of works of art to one another in terms of history, aesthetics and culture, justifying conclusions made in the analysis and using such conclusions to inform their own art making