



A star lantern Looking at constellations

time

70 minutes.

learning outcomes

To:

- be able to recognise some constellations
- know that a constellation is made up from different stars
- discover that the constellations were created by people

materials needed

- 24 sheets of coloured A3 card
- 24 embroidery needles and newspaper
- 24 lantern lights
- 24 sticks
- crepe paper and tissue paper in different colours
- brushes
- A4 paper
- luminous paint
- glue
- stapler
- string
- camera

Tip. Use the lanterns made in this lesson for a lantern procession.

end product

- a star lantern

Preparation

For the activity **Making a star lantern** copy the constellations from the worksheet onto various colours of A3 card.

Provide lights for the lanterns or ask the children to bring their own.



What constellations do you recognise? 10 min.

Sit in a circle with the children. Ask the children if they know what a star is. Explain that you can see the stars best at night. Stars give light. Place the drawings of the constellations on the worksheet in the middle of the circle. From top to bottom the constellations shown are: Leo (lion), Pisces (a pair of fish), and Scorpio (scorpion). Encourage the children to describe what figures they can see in the stars. Explain that we call these figures constellations. Look at each constellation and describe what it is supposed to look like and what it is called. Explain that long ago, people thought this was what the constellations looked like if you joined up the stars.



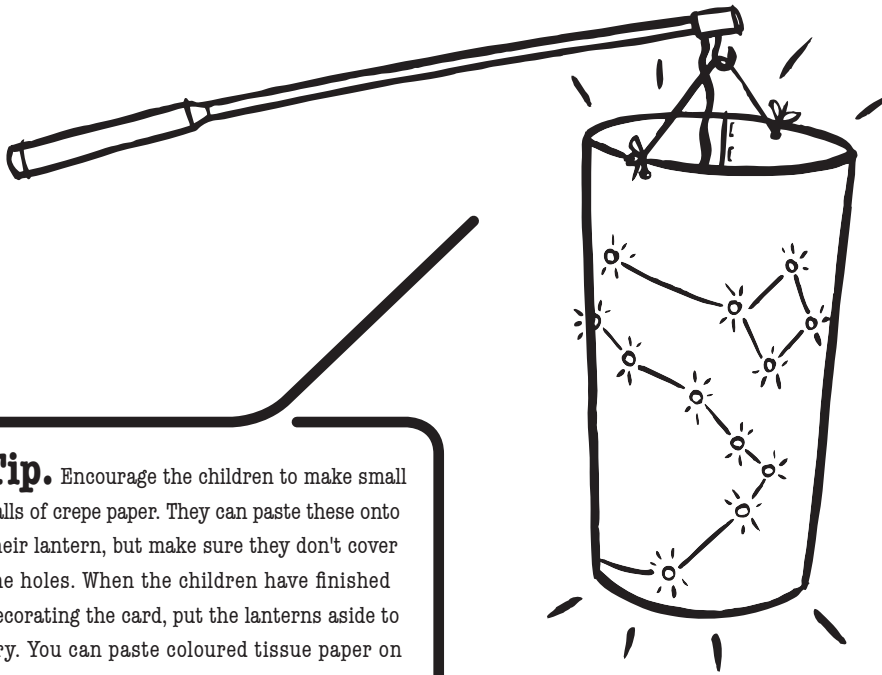
The children make a lantern with constellations.



Make a star lantern 30 min.



Give each child a sheet of A3 card with a copied star sign, an embroidery needle and a thick layer of newspaper. Ask the children to prick holes in the points of the star sign, using the layers of newspaper as a pad under the card. Encourage them to prick big holes, otherwise the light won't shine through them clearly. Roll the card to form a cylinder and staple the edges together. Make two holes at the top and tie a piece of string across. Hang the lantern on the stick and use a piece of string to hang the lamp inside the lantern. The lanterns are ready.



Tip. Encourage the children to make small balls of crepe paper. They can paste these onto their lantern, but make sure they don't cover the holes. When the children have finished decorating the card, put the lanterns aside to dry. You can paste coloured tissue paper on the inside of the lantern for a nice effect.



Let the stars shine 15 min.

Turn off the lights and/or close the blinds in the classroom. Ask the children to switch on their lantern lights. Ask them what they can see on their lantern. Explain that the spots of light on their lantern form a constellation. The lights are the stars. Take a photograph of each child with their lantern. Print a copy of their photograph for each child. Can you recognise the constellations on the photographs?



Design your own constellation 15 min.

The children use luminous paint to paint their own constellation on paper. They can make it any shape they like. Explain that they can paint spots (to represent the individual stars), or they can choose to make a drawing of the constellation using the luminous paint. Let the paintings dry on the window sill or near the radiators. Once the paintings are dry, make it dark in the classroom. Encourage the children to show their constellations and say what they represent.



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worksheet

