

Thanking the Moon

By Grace Lin

Books to Treasure Lesson Plan

by

Shelly Wimberley, Youth Associate

Zarrow Regional Library



Thanking the Moon

By Grace Lin



PASS Objectives

Language Arts

Oral Language/Listening and Speaking

- The student will give, restate, and follow simple two- and three-step directions (Standard 1.2)

Mathematics

Measurement

- The student will measure objects using standard units (e.g. measure length to the nearest foot, inch and half inch). (Standard 4.1.a)
- The student will select and use appropriate units of measurement in problem solving and everyday situations. (Standard 4.1.b)

Mid-Autumn Moon Festival

The Mid-Autumn Festival, also called the Moon Festival, is a holiday similar to Thanksgiving that is commonly celebrated in China and many other countries in Asia. It is celebrated on the fifteenth day of the eighth lunar month (which, using the solar calendar, falls sometime during September or October). The holiday began as a harvest festival. It marked the time when farmers had finished gathering their crops. Now it is celebrated as a time to give thanks for a good year and to come together with family.

Mid-Autumn Moon Festival

The traditions and myths of the Mid-Autumn Festival center around the moon. On the night of the festival, the moon is bright and full in the sky. The roundness of the moon symbolizes harmony, and its fullness symbolizes wholeness, so families come together to celebrate those virtues.

Children, allowed to stay up late, parade with lanterns in the moonlight. The paper lanterns are usually round like the moon or have the shape of animals, like rabbits (a white rabbit is said to live on the moon) or horses (the moon is said to move at horse's pace).

Mid-Autumn Moon Festival

“The Mid-Autumn Festival remains a beloved celebration and, along with the Lunar New Year, is one of the most important holidays of the year. Just as the moon always returns to its fullness, the festival continues to reunite families and inspire peace and gratitude.”

From *Thanking the Moon* by Grace Lin

Activity: Bunny Lantern



Pictures and activities are from Grace Lin's website:

<http://outergrace.blogspot.com/2010/09/bunny-lantern-craft.html>

Supplies

1. A sheet of tracing paper 8.5 x 24 inches
2. A ruler
3. A pencil
4. A pair of scissors
5. Scotch tape (invisible/not shiny is better)
6. Markers,
7. Lightstick necklace, any color
8. cord (should come with your light stick necklace)
9. A chopstick
10. [Bunny template](#)

Step 1

Fold your tracing paper in half, to make an 8.5 x 12 inch rectangle.



Step 2

Using the ruler, measure and make a line .75 inches from the edge of the long (12 inch) side. Fold on the line.



Step 3

Repeat on the other long side.



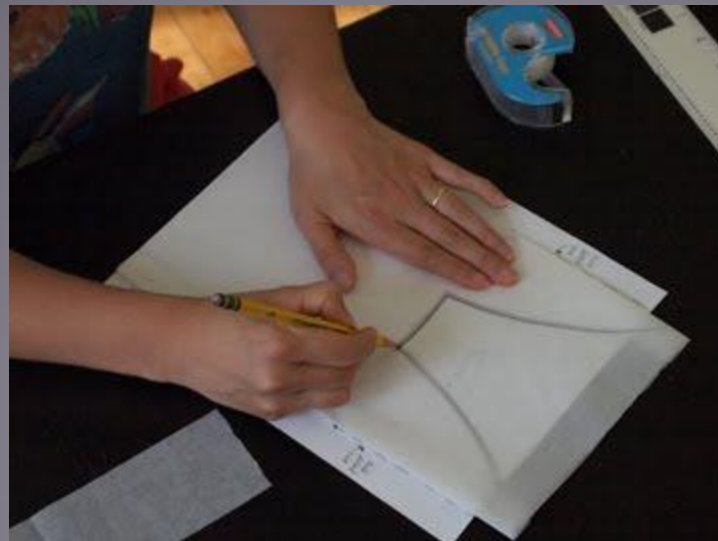
Step 4

Tape both folds down. Make sure you tape down the entire length.



Step 5

Tape one of the short sides down, too. All sides of your paper except one should be closed (like an envelope). Fit the bunny template under your paper, making sure the opening is at the top. Trace the thick black lines.



Step 6

Cut out your markings, as indicated by the template.



Step 7

Draw your bunny face. My bunny face uses 2 simple black ovals for the eyes, a brown circle for the nose, blue whiskers and a peach color in the ears. But you can make your face anyway you wish!



Step 8

Poke a hole through the top of your bunny's head (both layers of paper). You can use a small hole punch if you have one. I did not, so I just used my pencil.



Step 9

String your lightstick inside the bunny using the cord. Tie it loosely.



Step 10

Tie the other end of the cord to a chopstick. Tie this tightly, perhaps wrapping around the chopstick a couple of times to keep it secure.



Completed Bunny Lantern



The Finishing Touches...

Now all you have to do is wait until nightfall, activate the lightstick according to the lightstick's instructions, (you may have to untie & retie the cord) and let your lantern GLOW:



For More Information...

Check out these websites!

[Grace Lin: Thanking the Moon Activities](#)

[Wikipedia: Mid Autumn Festival](#)

[Wikipedia: Moon rabbit](#)