



Hudson Museum

Lunar New Year 2026

Craft Instruction Packet

Enclosed in this informational packet are instructions for traditional Lunar New Year crafts. In your kit you will find materials for the following activities:

Paper Lanterns

Red Envelopes

Origami

Paper cutting

Rattle Drum

Horse Mask

Dragon Puppet

Coloring Pages

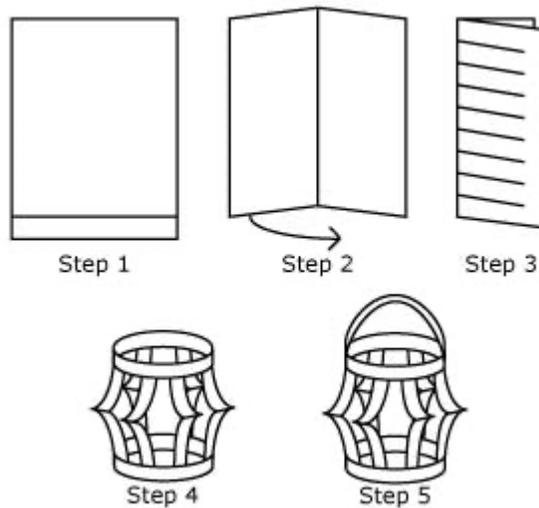
Paper Lanterns¹

Kit contains:

- 40 sheets red paper

Instructions:

- 1) Cut narrow (~1.5inch) strip from one end of paper and set aside. This will be the handle of the lantern
- 2) Fold paper in half lengthwise.
- 3) Cut parallel lines starting at the folded edge and ending about 1.5 inches from the opposite edge of the paper.
- 4) Unfold and curl (top to bottom) into a cylinder, stapling or taping edges together to make the lantern.
- 5) Add the handle. Your lantern is ready to hang!



¹ Instructional video can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CeZKYGmuZn0>

Red Envelopes²

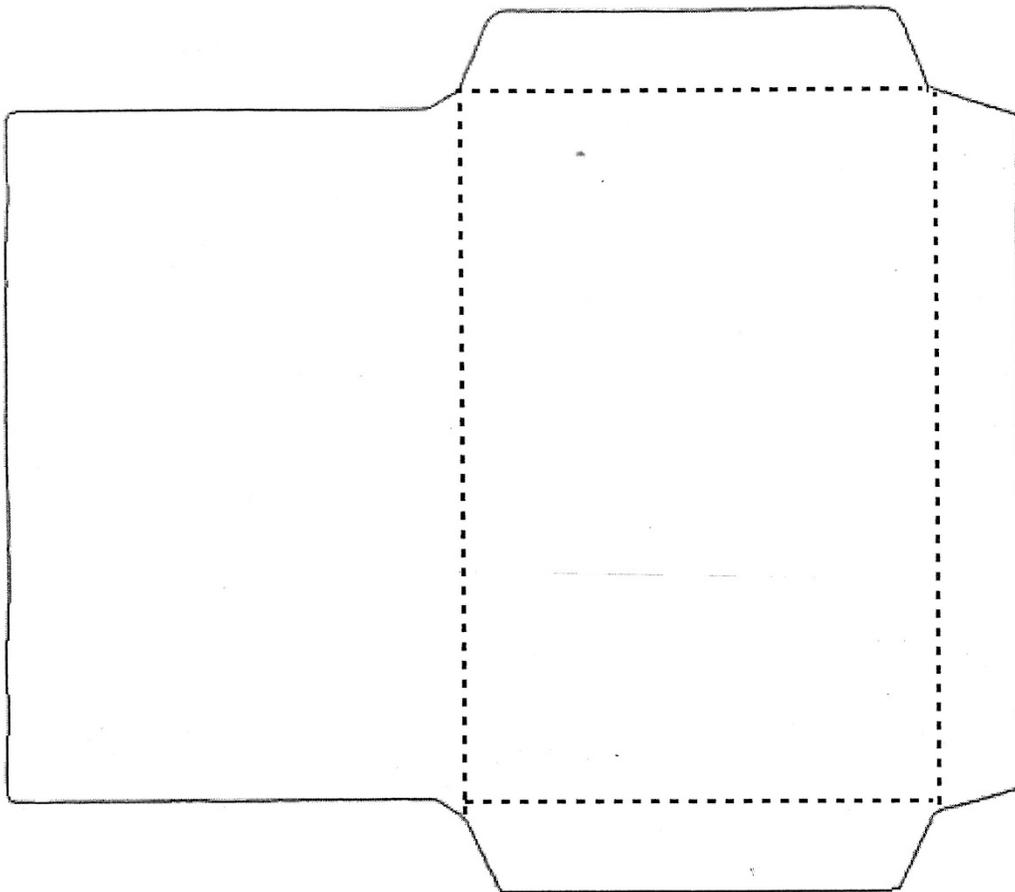
Red envelopes containing “money to anchor the year” are a traditional New Year gift – typically from elders to children – given in hopes of passing along good fortune for the year. This craft allows students to create their own red envelopes and learn about this popular tradition.

Kit contains:

- 40 half-page red paper envelope printouts

Instructions:

1. Cut out envelope out along solid lines.
2. Fold along dotted lines to form envelope shape.
3. Use glue stick or tape to secure envelope.



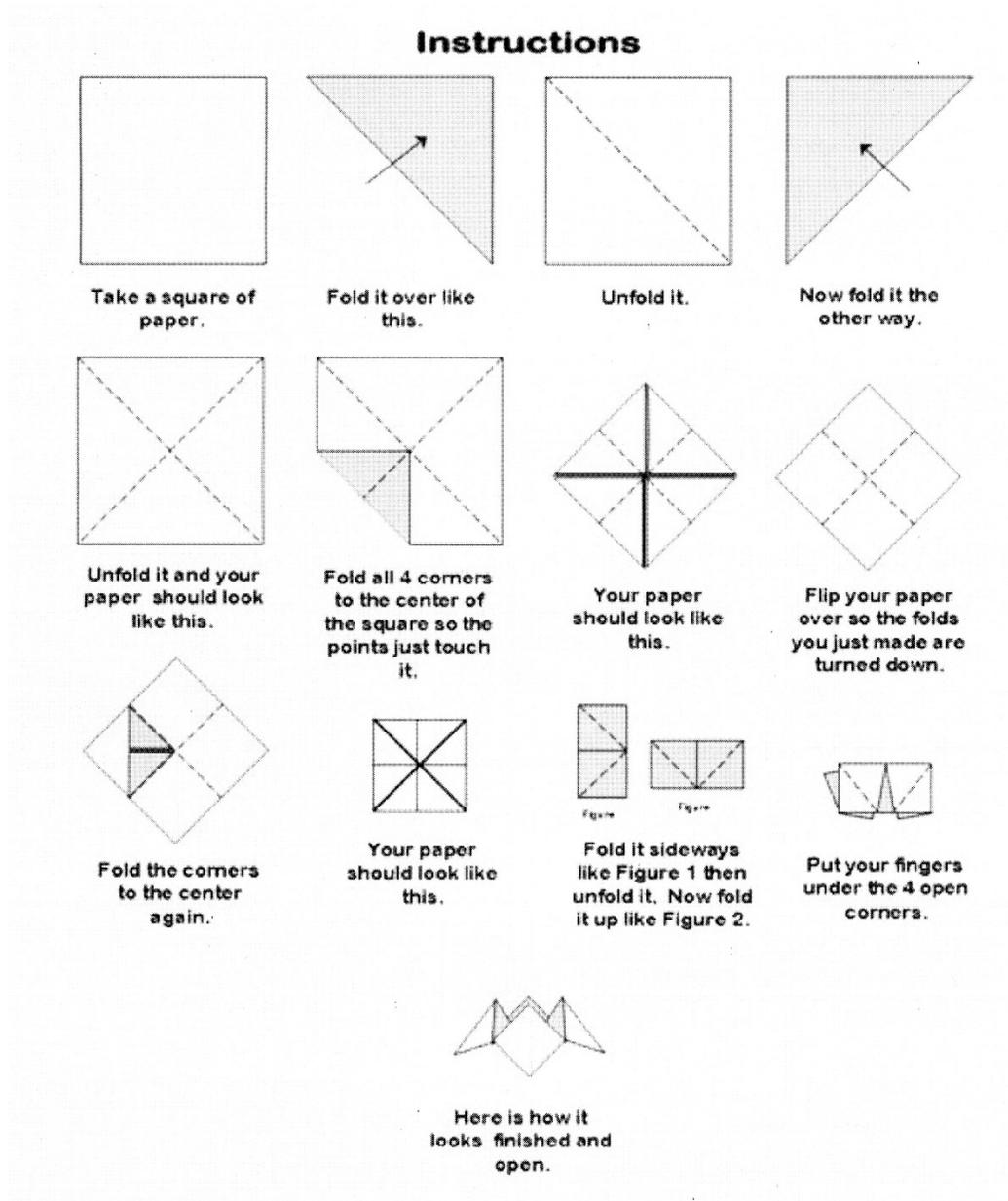
² Fantastic information about “red pockets” can be found here: <https://chinesenewyear.net/red-pockets/>

Origami^{3,4}

Kit contains:

- 100 origami sheets

Instructions for Origami Fortune Teller:



³ Further instructions and How to Play can be found: <https://www.origami-resource-center.com/fortune-teller.html>

⁴ Resource for teaching origami to kids: <https://www.origami-resource-center.com/origami-for-kids.html>

Paper cutting

The art of paper cutting has a long history in China, and the finished pieces are often detailed and intricate. A gallery of beautiful examples can be found here:

<https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/chinese-paper-cut-00219>

This kit contains a simplified horse shape with options for cutting out or coloring smaller details depending on the skill level/age/desires of the students.

Kit contains:

- 40 red paper printed horses for cutting

Instructions:

Using scissors, cut horse shape from paper. Cut-out portions can be cut out by folding the paper or by creating a small hole to insert scissors. Younger students may want to color these areas instead.



Rattle Drum⁵

In the legend of Chinese New Year the monster Nian (Year) came to the village in the winter to eat the livestock and crops and the villagers scared him away with loud noise, fire, and the color red. Use these rattle drums to scare away Nian!

Kit contains:

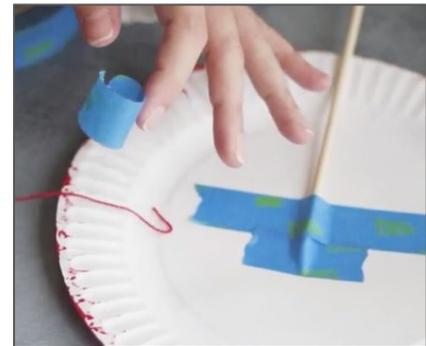
- 80 paper plates
- 80 strings
- 80 beads
- 40 cardboard handles

Each Student receives:

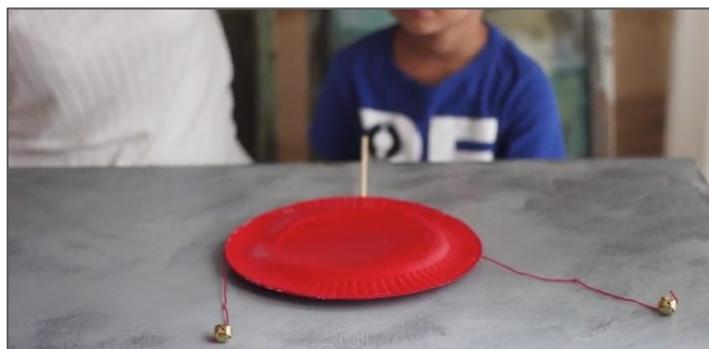
- 2 paper plates
- 2 strings
- 2 beads
- 1 stick

Instructions:

- 1) Decorate the bottoms of the paper plates. You can use any decorations you wish – traditional New Year decorations are typically red. Remember, this will be a drum, so decorations should be able to withstand being hit by the beads!
- 2) Tape the handles to the inside of one of the plates (see position of stick in photo to the right).
- 3) Tie a bead on the end of each string.
- 4) Tape the other end of each string to the inside edge of the plate, one on each edge across from each other. Alternatively, you can hole-punch each edge and tie the strings on.
- 5) Staple or tape the second paper plate to the first one, with bottoms facing out to form the body of the drum.



To play the drum, hold the handle in one hand and twist back and forth to make the beads hit the drum. Enjoy!



⁵ Instructions adapted from here (see link for video instructions): <https://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-and-experiments/make-a-chinese-rattle-drum>

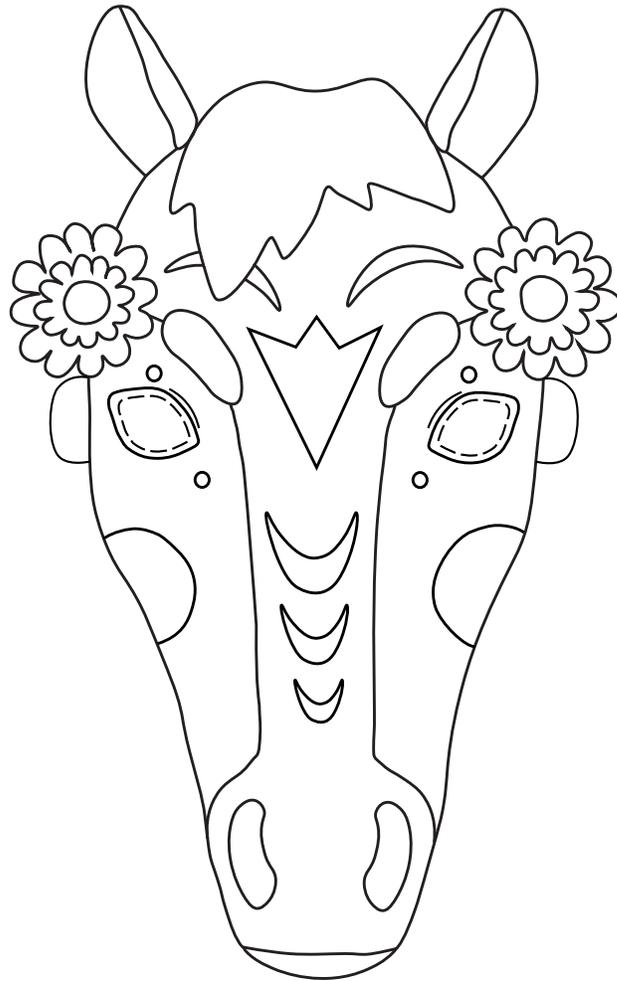
Horse Mask⁶

Kit includes:

- 40 printed horse masks on stock paper.

Instructions:

- 1) Color the mask.
- 2) Cut out each piece. Cut out the eye holes from the mask as well.
- 3) Hole punch the tabs on each side of mask and attach string.



Dragon Puppet⁷

Kit includes:

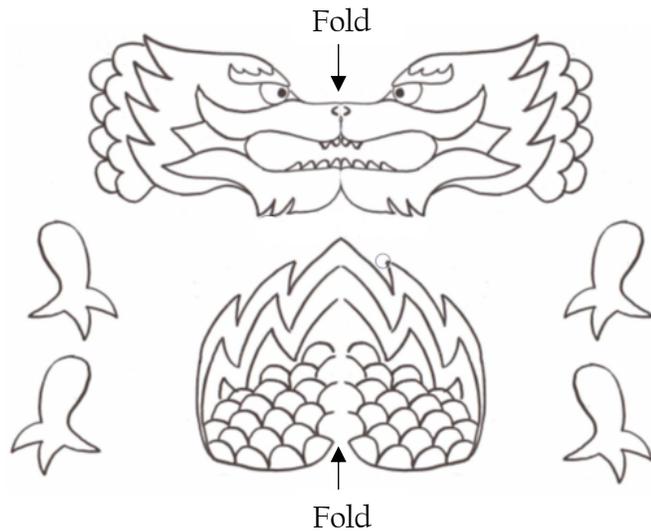
- 40 printed sheets on stock paper
- 40 red paper strips (1/3 sheet each)
- 80 craft sticks

Each student needs:

- 1 printed stock paper sheet
- 1 red paper strip
- 2 craft sticks

Instructions:

- 1) Color the double-sided head and tail as well as the four feet on the printed stock paper.
- 2) Cut each piece out with scissors.
- 3) Fold the head and tail pieces along the middle line.
- 4) Accordion fold the red paper strip (fold, turn over, fold, turn over, fold) – this will form the body of the dragon.
- 5) Glue the sticks to the bottom edge of each end of the paper, the head to one end, and the tail to the other, and the legs two on a side.



⁷ Craft from Red Ted Arts. Video tutorial here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4AOlalm02G0>