

## Magical Pressed Flower Lantern

This craft is a wonderful way to represent a beautiful symbol of hope during uncertain times.

### Supplies:

- Tissue paper: available at Your Dollar Store with More
- Glue: available at Your Dollar Store with More
- Flowers or leaves: go foraging in your backyard and press them between some books so they are nice and flat.
- Water Balloons: available at Your Dollar Store with More
- Paint brush: available at Your Dollar Store with More
- Jars: to place your lanterns on when they are drying. Raid your recycling bin or cupboard!
- Flameless tea light: available at Your Dollar Store with More
- Newspaper: raid your recycle bin

Step 1: Press flowers. Place them between 2 pieces of wax paper in a book and close the book. Place a couple more heavy books on top and check back in a few days or week.

Step 2: Make your glue mixture with equal parts water and glue. Use a half a bottle of glue and the same amount of water. Now set up your work area for your lantern craft. Make sure you protect your work surface because this activity is pretty messy! This is what is pictured below:

- little rectangles of tissue paper
- glue mixture
- water and sponge paintbrush
- pressed pieces
- balloon placed in jar



Step 3: For the first layer of covering, use plain water without glue. Dip the tissue paper right in the water and started a single layer without glue. This will ensure that the balloon will peel off the inner layer of tissue paper when you pop it later.



Step 4: Now add another layer of tissue paper, but this time you will want to add the glue mixture on top of the first layer of tissue. You can start to add flowers after you have your second complete layer of tissue paper on your balloon. You can even add depth to your lantern, by adding more tissue over the flowers. You can also choose to brush the flowers with the glue mixture,

leaving them as the top layer of your lantern craft. You will want three - four layers of tissue paper at most. Take the time to flatten the tissue paper as you go.



Step 5: Let them dry. You will have a bit of a drippy gluey mess, but it will all dry clear. Set the lanterns in or on a jar, so they dry evenly. Once the tops are dried, take them out of the jar to make sure the bottoms of the lanterns are 100% dry. It will take about 4 hours for them to dry completely.



Step 6: Pop the balloons. Once the lanterns are dried, you will want to draw a line to help you cut an even line later. Use a jar lid to draw an even line. Then you can pop the balloon. The balloon should quickly shrivel up and fall out of the balloon. This is pretty fun to watch! Now you can cut the excess paper mache at the bottom of the lantern, so you have a nice even top.



Now you can carefully dent in the bottom of the lantern, so it will sit evenly on whatever surface you choose.

You're done! You now have a beautiful paper lantern to enjoy!