

Samhuinn forest lantern

Materials

- Autumn leaves
- Sticks
- PVA glue
- String, masking tape or hairbands
- A candle or fairy lights

Step one

Collect some colourful autumnal leaves and glue them onto a large piece of tissue paper in a pattern, or at random, as you like.



Tip - use 2 layers of tissue paper and keep them on a wipe clean surface when doin' your gluin'.

Step two

Hang up your tissue-leaf creation to dry.



Step three

Find yourself some woodland sticks, some straight, some bent and some bendy. You will need at least 12, but having extra is good.

Step four

Choose 3 sticks of equal length to make the uprights poles of an open-topped tee-pee.

Step five

Choose another 3 equal length sticks. Use these to make a triangle and attach the bottom ends of the upright tee-pee poles, using string, masking tape or hairbands.



Step six

Make a couple of circles with your trusty bendy sticks, securing them together with more string, masking tape or hairbands.

Step seven

Place the double circle inside the frame you have made, near the top of the upright poles and bind the uprights onto it.



Step eight

Choose 3 sticks, 2 straight and 1 bent, of about the same length and bind them as a bridge across the bottom of your structure. Put the bent stick in the middle of the three to create a wee dip for your candle.



Step nine

You can use your extra sticks to make more structural connections on the outside of your lantern's 'walls' or 'empty panels'.

Tip – Make sure the circles at the top stay above the centre of the lantern, above where the light will be. Test whether your lantern can stand on its own.



Step ten

Test out wrapping your structure in the leafy tissue paper. Checking that no parts of the tissue or leaves are loose on the inside or flapping into the centre.



Tip – If you use a real candle, it is very important that the paper and leaves don't get near the flame. Make sure you get a grown-up to help you do this safely.

Step eleven

Once you are happy with your lantern structure, start attaching the tissue paper sheets to it with PVA glue by tucking it round the sticks neatly. Try to pull the sheets so that they are taut and smooth.



Step twelve - Putting in the candle!

Make sure that you get a grown-up to help you with this.

Slot your small candle into the centre of the wee boat bridge you made with the 3 sticks and make sure it is sitting directly under the open circle at the top.

(You could use fairy lights instead, especially if you want to use your lantern indoors.)



Tip and safety precaution - make sure the tissue around the top is properly tucked away or trimmed off so that there are no loose or flappy bits of tissue or leaf.

So now for the final step...

Step thirteen

Make sure you don't do this step without help from a grown-up.

When it gets dark, take your lantern outside and, with you grown-up's help, gently light the candle. Keep your lantern upright, so that the heat from the flame will go through the middle of the opening at the top.



Remember that it is extra important that you get help with the lighting of your lantern, for all things to go magically.

And there you have it

A wee light guide to chase away the shadows and bring wonder to the night.