

# What do I need?

A4 coloured card

Scissors

Sticky tape

Coloured pens

Ribbon

Flameless tea light  
(optional)

## Ramadan lantern



# What do I do?

Look at page 2 to learn about the Islamic festival of Ramadan.

Fold your card in half lengthways (images 1-2).

Use your scissors to cut slits up from the folded edge of the card. The slits should be about 7cm in length and you should leave a 2cm gap in between each slit (image 3).

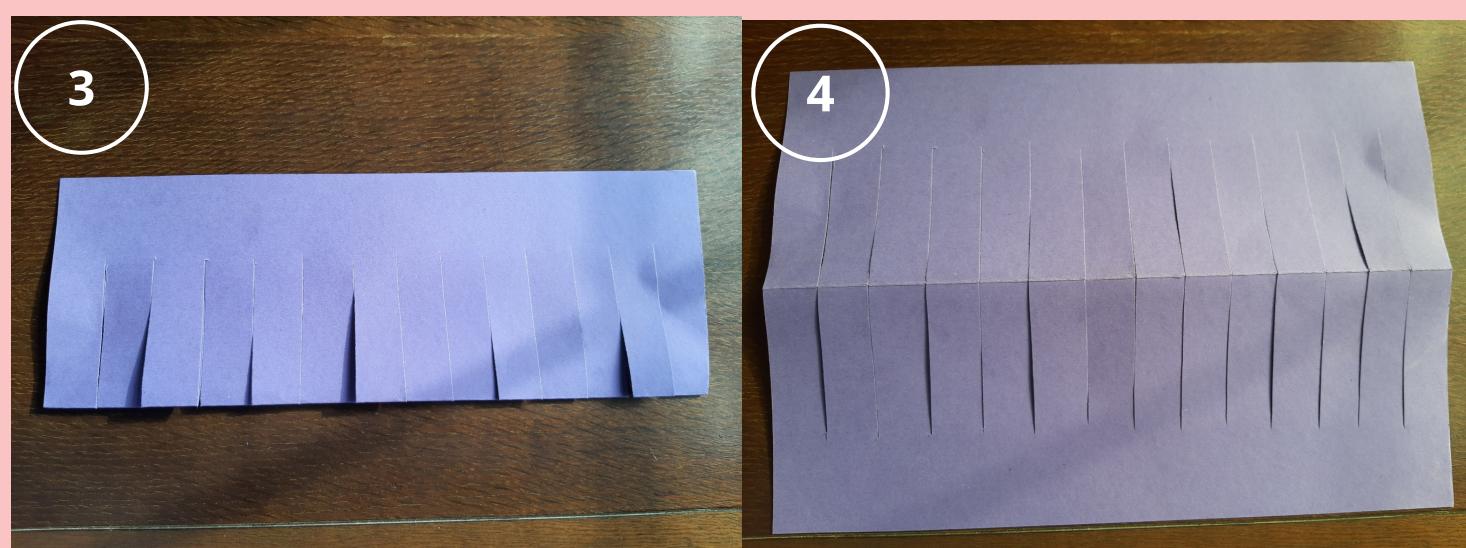
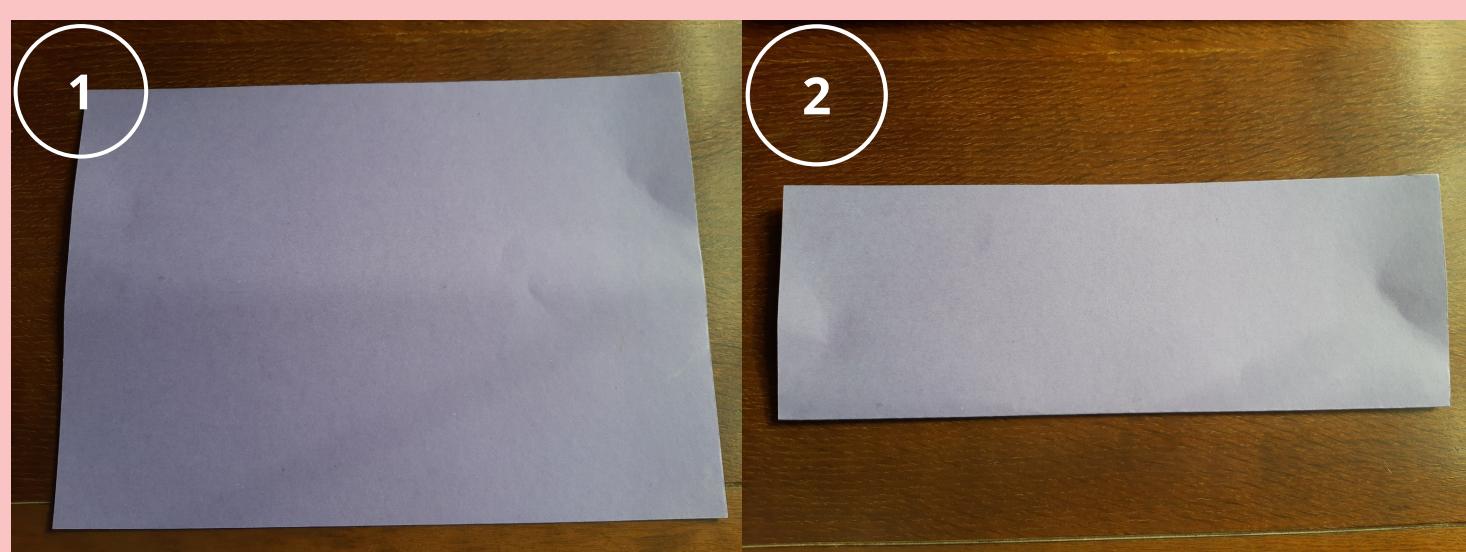
Unfold the card then roll it into a cylinder, overlapping the two shorter edges by 2cm. Stick the edges together with your sticky tape (images 4-6).

You should now have a lantern, as the slits will create small gaps in the card to let light through.

Now use your coloured pens to add patterns to your lantern, such as the crescent moon and stars that is used as the symbol of Islam.

When you're happy with your design, cut a length of ribbon and stick it either side of the inside of your lantern to make a handle.

If you want to illuminate your lantern, you can stick a flameless tea light to the inside with sticky tape.





# Ramadan

Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar. It is a time when Muslims practise fasting, abstaining from eating and drinking during the hours of daylight. Ramadan takes place on slightly different dates each year because the festival is dependent on the cycle of the moon.

Ramadan is a time to reflect and to remember when the *Qur'an*, the Islamic holy book, was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. As well as fasting, many Muslims try to give up bad habits and strive to do good deeds. The *Qur'an* is read every day and men attend the Mosque for special services.

Through fasting between sunrise and sunset Muslims take time to devote themselves to their faith and to think about those less fortunate than themselves. After sunset, Muslims typically break their fast with a meal called *iftar*. Dates are an important food to break fast with because they are very nutritious and they are also rooted in the religious teachings of the Prophet. Just before sunrise it is traditional to have a final meal, called *suhoor*, before the daytime fast.

Lanterns also play a symbolic role during the month of Ramadan. In many countries decorative lanterns are hung outside houses and along streets. The light from the lantern is seen as a symbol of hope to light the way out of darkness.

