Nature ❀ ❀ ❀

Art 🖌 🖌 🖌

STEM ⚡ ⚡ ⚡

Leafy lantern

Materials and tools

Part 1

- Gel plate
- Brayer roller
- A4 Watercolour paper 200GSM (printed with the [lantern fold template](#))
- Acrylic paint
- Leaves and nature materials

Part 2

- Punch hole tool
- A4 Tracing paper
- Scissors
- Double sided tape
- Stick

Part 3

- [Chibitronics light strip circuit template](#)
- [Conductive fabric tape](#)
- Coin cell battery (3V CR2016)
- [LED lights](#)
- Paper clips

Creating a nature print

1.

Source nature materials

Collect leaves locally-different sizes can inspire unique prints.

2.

Roll the paint

Try double-layer printing: roll a light coat (5-6 dots) of yellow/beige on your gel plate. Use up/down and left/right strokes.

3.

Compose the piece

Arrange your natural materials on the plate.

4.

Lift the print

Place paper on the plate and pat down. Lift leaves gently, pat again, then pull the print.

5.

Compose (again)

Choose a darker contrasting colour. On a clean plate, roll paint as before and arrange your leaves.
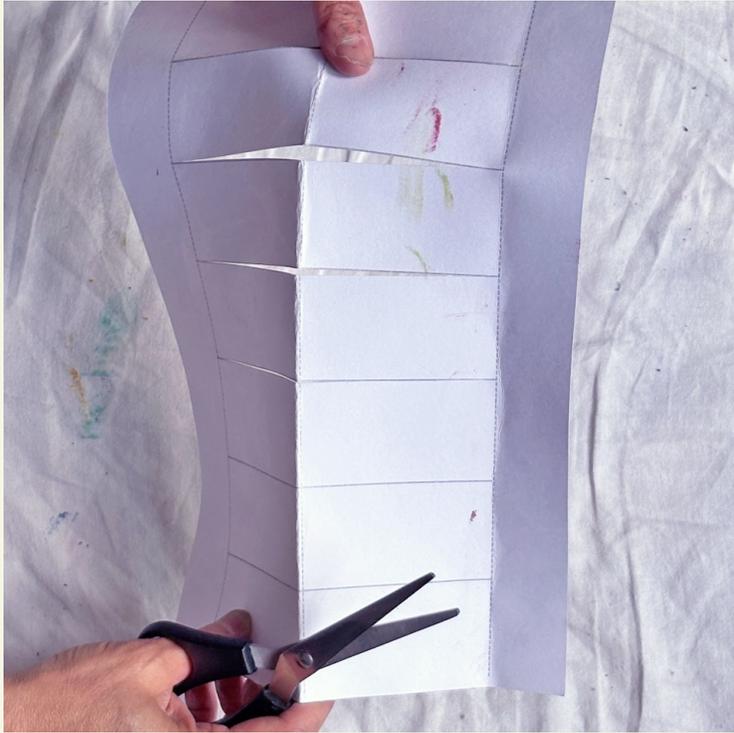
6.

Mask and lift the print

Use the leaves as a mask. Place your print on the plate, pat down, and lift paint from the edges. Your print is ready!

Visit our YouTube channel for more printing techniques.

Make your lantern structure

1.

Cut to the model

If using the lantern fold template, follow the back grid: fold on dotted lines, cut on solid lines up to the fold.

2.

Add the tape

Add double-sided tape to one side of the lantern.

3.

Secure the lantern

Join both ends to form a cylinder.

4.

Tip: Trim the top if needed.

Diffuse the light

Roll tracing paper into a tube and place it inside the lantern.

5.

Punch a hole

Punch two holes on each side.
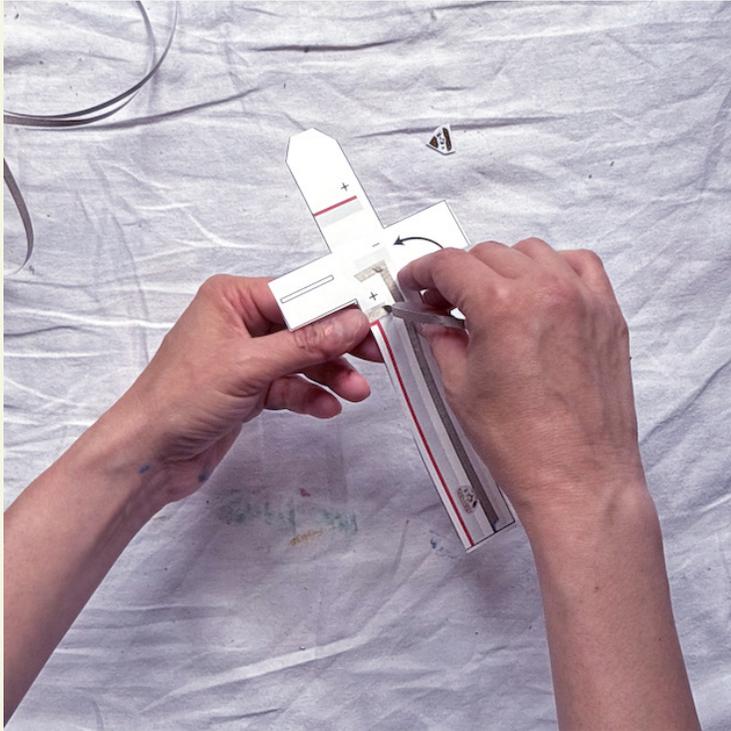
6.

Add the handle

Insert your stick through and your lantern has come to life.

Construct your light strip and put it all together

1.

Lay the tape

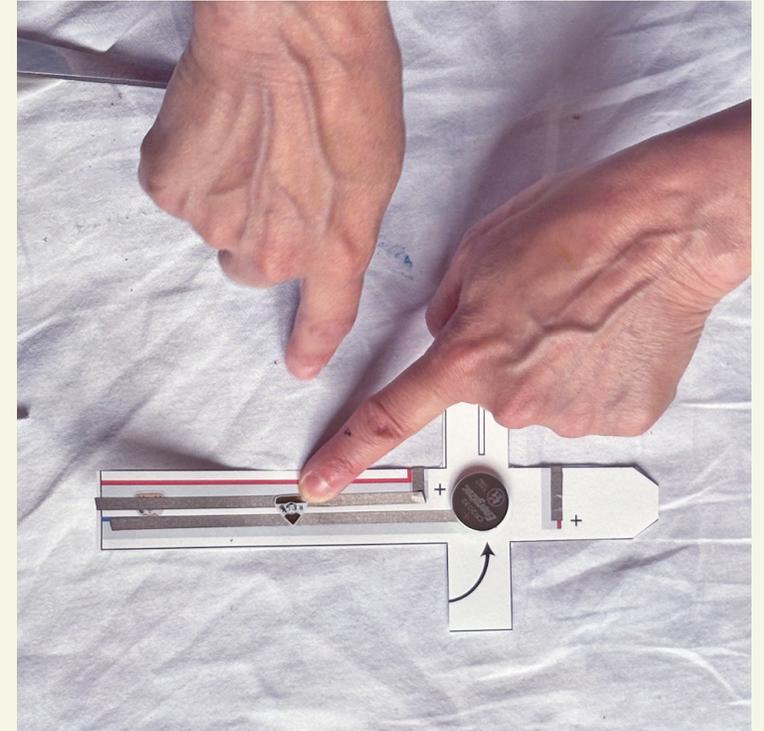Stick the circuit tape along the marked lines on the template.

2.

Wrap around

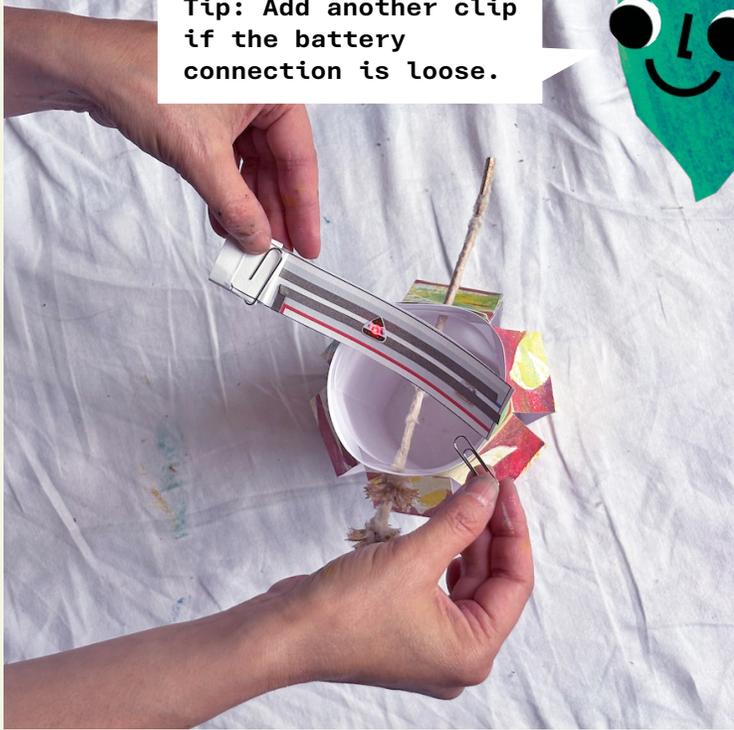In this design, the tape wraps around the light strip.

3.

Add LEDs

Attach the LED sticker(s) to the circuit, matching polarity-wide side is positive, narrow is negative.

4.

Tip: Add another clip if the battery connection is loose.

5.

6.

Secure the strip
Clip the light strip to the top of the lantern.

Decorate it
Add creative touches to your branch. E.g. like hanging décor, and textures.

Add more details
Stick dried flowers on your lantern, or add shadow effects placing materials inside to diffuse the light.

Your leafy lantern is ready!

Want more of a challenge? Turn the page!

In the autumn, enrich your lantern by drying, preserving and adding leaves on the lantern e.g., using wax paper.

Try enriching the nature materials you use in your nature print. E.g., look for interesting flowers, grasses, and other found materials in your local environment that lay flat.

Extend your printing techniques. Have a look at our YouTube channel for new ideas!

Add your idea here!

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