


## The Home Forum®

### Punched-tin lantern

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1. Take an empty tin can and fill it with water to within 1/2 inch of the rim. Put container in freezer.
  2. Once water is frozen, lay can on its side. Take a nail, and hammer your design into the can. Be sure to punch two holes at the top for a handle.
  3. When ice melts, drain water from can. Bend a wire hanger to form a handle, and put each end in the holes at the top of can.
  4. Place a sturdy candle in can and light it.

# Make your own light, and let it shine

**kid space** FOR ANYONE living north of the equator, winter is the darkest period of the year. So perhaps this is a good time to sing the praises of lamps, lanterns, and the like.

Probably not a day goes by that you don't switch on at least one light (and maybe get reminded to turn it off, too).

But lights don't have to be high-tech to be useful. If there's a power outage, for example, candles may be handy as a backup light source.

And consider the extremely low-power night lights found in many homes. They may hug the wall near the floor, escaping notice. But come bedtime, they cast a welcome glow, lighting the way to darkened destinations such as bathrooms and kitchens.

Why are winter days so dark?

Chalk it up to the sun. It's at its lowest elevation in the sky because of the tilt of the Earth. The days are shortest just before the winter solstice (about Dec. 21). After that, we begin gaining a few minutes of daylight each day. And we continue gaining until the summer solstice, which is around June 21.

But you can help to break the winter darkness. Here are a few projects that let you do just that. Most of the materials may already be free for the asking in your home. Otherwise, they are readily available and inexpensive, which makes it even more fun to craft your own eye-catching lamps.

#### Candle-lit luminaria

You may have seen these candle lanterns lining a walk or a patio. As you might imagine, they should not be left unattended, since they can catch fire if you're not careful. (Have a plan to put them out, if necessary.)

The basic luminaria couldn't be simpler to make. Take a bag (a brown paper lunch bag will do) and fill it with a few inches of sand. This

creates a solid base so the bag, if outdoors, won't blow over. It also helps keep the bag sides from sagging into the flame and holds the candle in place.

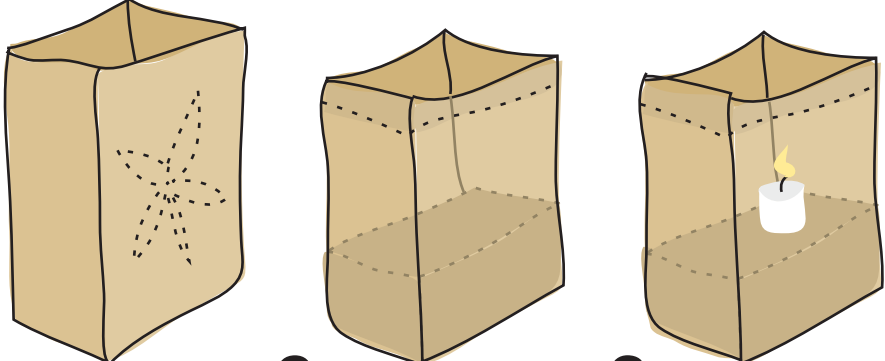
A short, stubby votive candle works well. Whoever lights it (ask a grownup) needs to be careful. Reaching down into the bag with a match can be a bit tricky. One helpful strategy is to light an uncooked spaghetti noodle to use as a long, finger-saving match.

### YOU CAN HELP TO BREAK THE WINTER DARKNESS. THESE PROJECTS WILL SHOW YOU HOW.


There are many ways to decorate these bags. One is to cut out simple shapes from the paper – a star or a crescent moon or a heart. These shapes stand out like illuminated windows at night, much the way the carved features of a jack-o'-lantern do.

To add another decorative element, glue colored tissue paper over the cutouts. Attach the tissue paper to the inside of the

### Candle-lit luminaria

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1. Cut a design into a brown paper bag, lunch-bag size.
  2. Fill with sand, about two inches deep.
  3. Place a sturdy candle in sand and light candle.

### Ice light

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1. Take a 32-ounce empty yogurt container and fill it to within 1/2 inch of rim with water. Put container in freezer.
  2. When frozen, turn container upside down and let ice fall out. There will be a hole in the ice.
  3. Place a short, squat candle in air pocket and light candle.

bag. You can also adorn the outsides of the bags with paint and markers, if you like.

If you want something sturdier, try using a cardboard milk carton or box. The cartons are easily cut with scissors, but they have one drawback. Even if you paint it on the outside, the writing and graphics of the carton show through when illuminated.

#### Simply can-tastic

The sturdiest luminarias are punched-tin lanterns. These are made from tin cans. Forty-six-ounce juice containers are a good size. But smaller cans work, too, and may be easier to find in supermarkets.

What you'll do is poke a series of holes in the tin to create a pattern for the light to shine through. This technique is also used in crafting lampshades.

First, of course, you'll need an empty can. Fill it nearly to the brim with water,

and put the can in the freezer. While the water is freezing, make the hole-punch pattern.

To do this, cut out a piece of paper, as wide as the can is high, to go around the outside of the can. Laying the paper flat, draw a pattern – something geometric often works well. It's best to keep the design simple for your first lantern. Later, if you like, you might draw outlines of dogs, houses, or other recognizable objects.

The pattern will be attached to the ice-filled can with tape. Then you will need a hammer and at least one easily held and struck nail, preferably a carpenter's nail with a good-size, flat head.

To keep the can from rolling when on its side, place a folded towel on your work surface (a sturdy workbench is ideal).

Now remove the can from the freezer and wrap the paper pattern around it. Secure it in place with tape (you don't want your pattern to shift). Now you're ready to start hammering. The ice will keep the sides of the can from collapsing.

Hammer through the paper and the tin, spacing the holes about 1/4-inch apart. Keep the spacing and penetration as even as possible for best effect. Rotate the can as you work, so that you are hammering straight down.

If you make a second lantern, consider using different size nails and varying the spacing for visual variety.

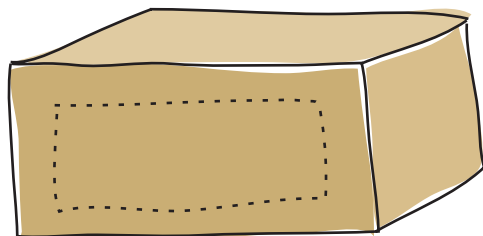
#### Getting a handle on things

If you want to hang your lantern, make a hole on either side of the can for attaching a handle. The crimped ends of an arched metal coat hanger can be slipped into the holes later.

When done punching, invert the can in a sink and let the ice melt. When reaching into the can, be care-

### Skyline box

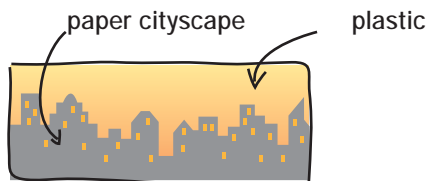
**1.** Take a rectangular cardboard box. Create a window by cutting into one of the long sides. Remove the opposite side of the box if it is not already open.



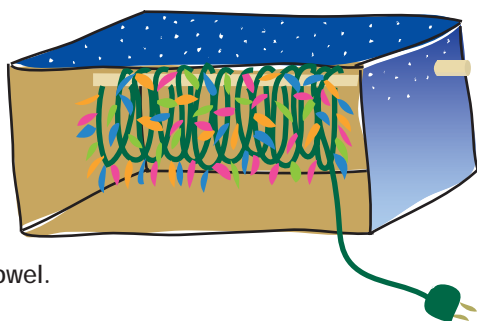
**2.** Paint the outside of the box in blues to represent the evening sky. Add white paint dots for stars.



**3.** Cut a cityscape out of a piece of construction paper the length of the box. Cut holes for windows. Paint a piece of plastic (see story for details) the same size as the paper with orange and yellow paint. Glue the cityscape to the plastic and place both inside cardboard box so that the cityscape faces outward.



**4.** Cut a wooden dowel rod an inch longer than the length of your box. Cut two holes on either side of box and slide rod through them. Wrap your Christmas lights around dowel.



**5.** Turn around and plug in!



ILLUSTRATIONS BY WHITNEY WOODRUFF MOODY - STAFF

ful not to catch your hand against the small metal projections of the punctured tin. Now you're ready to add a votive candle. The candle can be secured either in sand, or with candle wax or modeling clay.

#### Skyline boxes

These make nice accent lights, perhaps for your bedroom. A short string of Christmas lights, available in many hardware and department stores, is the inexpensive light source for this project. Corrugated-cardboard boxes of various sizes can be used.

Begin by cutting an opening for your skyline. Then paint the box. We used acrylic paints and a night-sky theme, with dots of white to represent stars.

Cut a skyline silhouette from black construction paper. For added realism, use a craft knife to cut out scattered windows. (You don't need a lot for the buildings to appear occupied).

Now cut a piece of plastic that is slightly bigger than the size of the box's window. (We used Write-On/Wipe Off Poster Board, but strips of milk carton

taped together might do.) Paint the plastic on the textured side to create a sunset effect.

Attach the silhouette to the painted side of the strip of plastic, using double-sided tape. Then with regular tape, secure the strip to the inside of the window.

For the light source, use a string of Christmas lights. We chose a 50-light string of white lights, but colored lights work well, too. Take them out of the package, unwinding the lights to release the cord. Then rewind the lights around the packaging grid - or just around the dowel. Aim for compactness, not neatness.

You want to suspend the lights in the box so that they don't touch the cardboard walls. To do this, poke holes at either end of the box large enough to hold a wooden dowel rod. Slide the rod (cut slightly longer than the box) through one hole and out the other. Hang the grid from the rod using twistable garbage-bag ties. The jumble of wires and cords isn't visible from the outside.

Ross Atkin

## TODAY'S ARTICLE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Helping children learn about God's care

# The Bible and you

MICHAEL CAME TO VISIT ME. He is my nephew, and I am his Aunt Wendy. I live in the country in a farmhouse that is so old that every floor tilts a different way; and you feel like you are walking on the deck of a ship as you go from room to room. During Michael's visit, we tried to do interesting things, like see a movie on dinosaurs. Once, we went to a temple that had a huge statue of Buddha. Michael noticed that people had left small candies and fruit for the Buddha as a way to express their respect for him.

Michael loved to read, and he had brought a children's Bible with him that had brightly drawn pictures of Bible stories. Though Michael was chatty about a lot of things, he was very quiet about God and religion.

One night when I was tucking him in at bedtime, he shared a sentence from Psalms: "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them" (119:165). It seemed to me this was a great prayer, because it worked in two different ways. First, it says you will have great peace when you trust God and understand that His laws are loving, not hard to follow. Next, it says that a person who sees God's laws as something good will never feel resentful or offended about being obedient to them.

Then when we looked at Michael's Bible, we began to talk a little about the story of creation in Genesis, the first book of the Bible. Michael suddenly jumped out of his makeshift bed on the couch and began to pace up and down the room, struggling with something. (He may have even pounded his fist in his hand.) Some built-up anger came out, and Michael said with a break in his voice, "God lied!"

The whole story came pouring out. Adam and Eve were told not to eat of the fruit of the tree in the midst of the garden of Eden, or they would surely die. The serpent convinced Eve to take a bite, she gave some to Adam, and guess what? They didn't die - at least not that very second. Michael felt that they had been tricked by God, because they didn't die after all.

Whew, where to begin? I remembered the verse, "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them." I wanted Michael to feel at peace. "Well," I said, "even though

they didn't die right then, they thought of themselves as mortal, as having a beginning and ending, being born and dying, rather than as always living in the garden and being incapable of dying." I also pointed out that Adam and Eve were characters in a story in the second chapter of Genesis, to teach people never to believe a lie (the serpent). The first chapter of Genesis says, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Gen. 1:27).

Michael and I agreed that the male and female in the first chapter must have been eternal since they were made in God's image. We also agreed that a good God, like a good parent, would never give a "test" to his children that would result in their eventual dying, as with Adam and Eve.

The more we spoke of the difference between chapter one and chapter two, the clearer it was to Michael that either one or the other was true, but both could not be true. Then we had just a mini-explosion. He said, "Well, people should be told this! There should be a

warning right in the Bible that there are two different creation stories told side by side, so little kids don't go around wondering if God was a liar!"

We snuggled back down for his good-night tuck-in, and agreed that each one of us could read the Bible and love it for the many ways it inspires and gives messages, morals, and examples to meet our daily needs. Every person has a chance to appreciate the spiritual meaning in the Bible, and that's what has made it a special book for so many people, for so many years.

It has been a very special book for many people, for many years.

*There is but one creator and one creation.*

Mary Baker Eddy  
(founder of the Monitor)

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