Star Willow Lantern How-to Guide

Follow the Stars

ALL ABOUT IPSWICH

Materials you'll need for one 40–45cm star lantern:

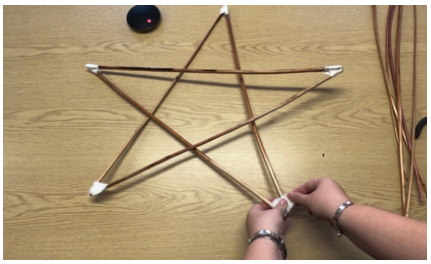
- 10 willow sticks (soaked if needed)
- 3 large sheets wet-strength tissue paper
- Willow stick cut into 5 dowels
- Masking tape
- PVA glue (mixed 2 parts PVA to 1 part water)
- 1 garden cane (to hang the light from or hold by the string)
- Battery-powered fairy lights or other light source

You'll also need: scissors, secateurs, a glue brush and a sponge.

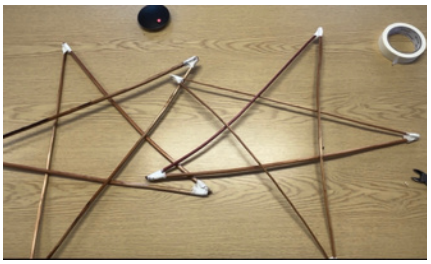
Making The Star Frame



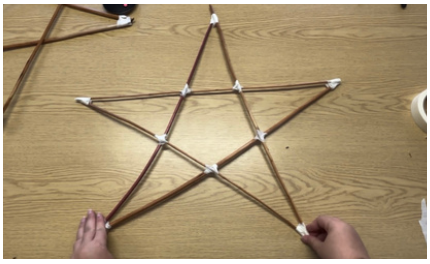
Take 5 pieces of willow and arrange them to create a 5-pointed star



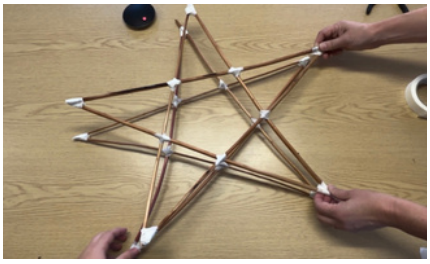
Secure each point with masking tape - keeping the star as equal as possible



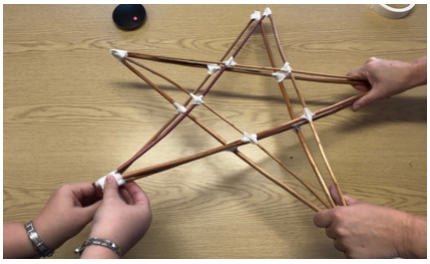
Use this shape to create a second star - try to match them as best as possible!



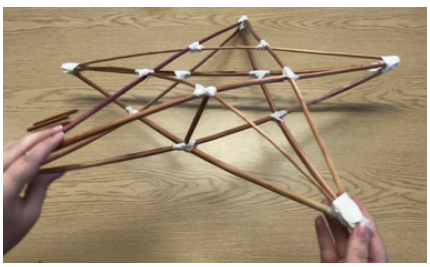
Take your first star and secure each cross-section where the willows overlap



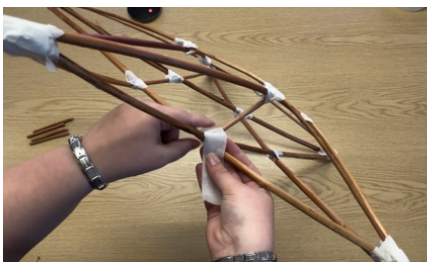
Repeat with the second star- again matching the joins up as best as possible



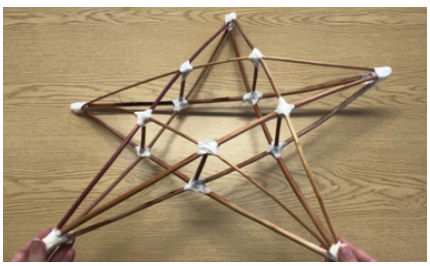
Join the points of both stars together to create one structure - make sure the structures are flexible enough to pull apart slightly



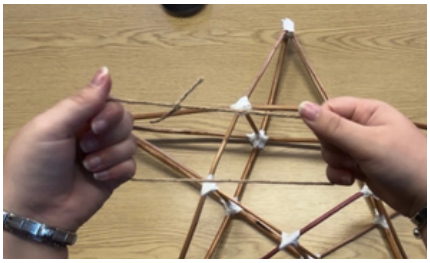
Place a dowel between a cross-section, propping the two frames apart



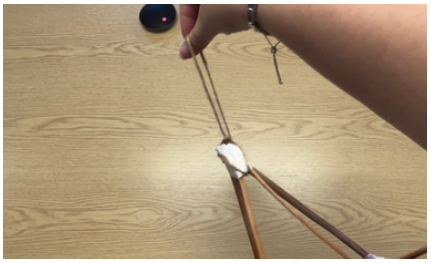
Secure each dowel to both sides of the frame with masking tape



Repeat for all 5 cross-sections until you have a secure, 3D structure



Take your string and tie it to create a circle/loop



Decide where you would like the top of your star to be and tie a slip-knot around that point

Adding the tissue paper



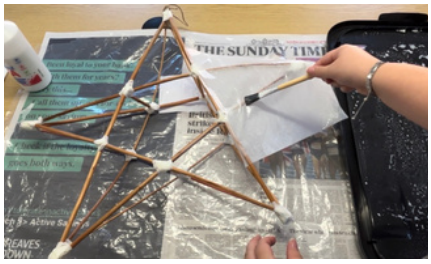
Lay down some plastic and something to spread glue on- we find a plastic storage container lid works well. mix a 2:1 ratio of PVA and water.



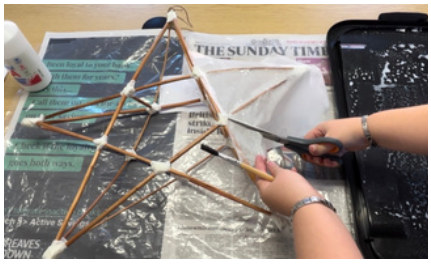
Spread a thin layer of glue onto your plastic lid or smooth surface



Lay your first sheet of tissue paper onto the glue layer, making note of which side is shiny. Coat the top of the paper using the sponge.



Once coated, place the sheet onto one arm of your star frame- SHINY SIDE UP. use a brush to smooth it down



Use scissors to cut slits and help the tissue paper to fold into the corners of your frame



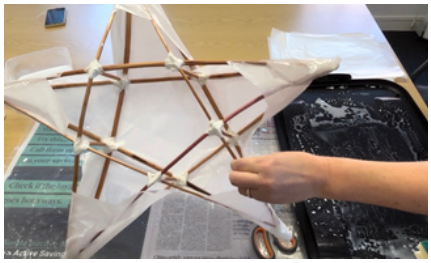
make sure to smooth each piece down over the sides and define the points. Even better if it wraps all the way round! Try and keep each piece as taut as possible



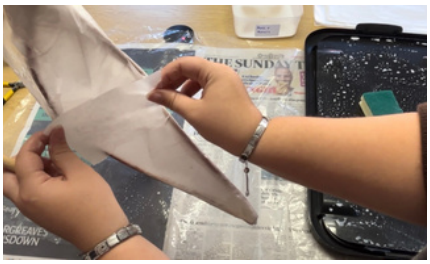
Repeat for all 5 arms



Use a large rectangle to cover the middle, using scissors to help wrap the edges around



Flip and repeat for the other side!



If you see any gaps, cut a small piece of tissue paper and patch the hole using the same technique as when covering the frame



Once covered, hang up and leave to dry overnight!

Lighting and Decorating

Once dry, cut a small X in the back of the lantern near the string and push through your light source. Cover the hole with masking tape, and you're ready for the parade!

You can also add patterns, shapes or pictures to really make it your own!

REMINDER: Only use battery-powered LED lights. Never use candles or naked flames.

And Voila!







What are you waiting for? Make your lantern and come and shine with us at the Follow the Stars lantern parade on the 19th of December!

Tag us at @allaboutipswich in your creations- we can't wait to see all of your stars!

AllAboutIpswich.com/Christmas

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