


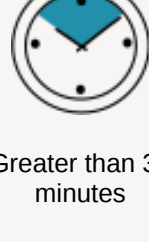
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Magic Spinning Lantern

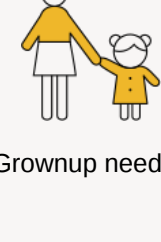
Stem Activities



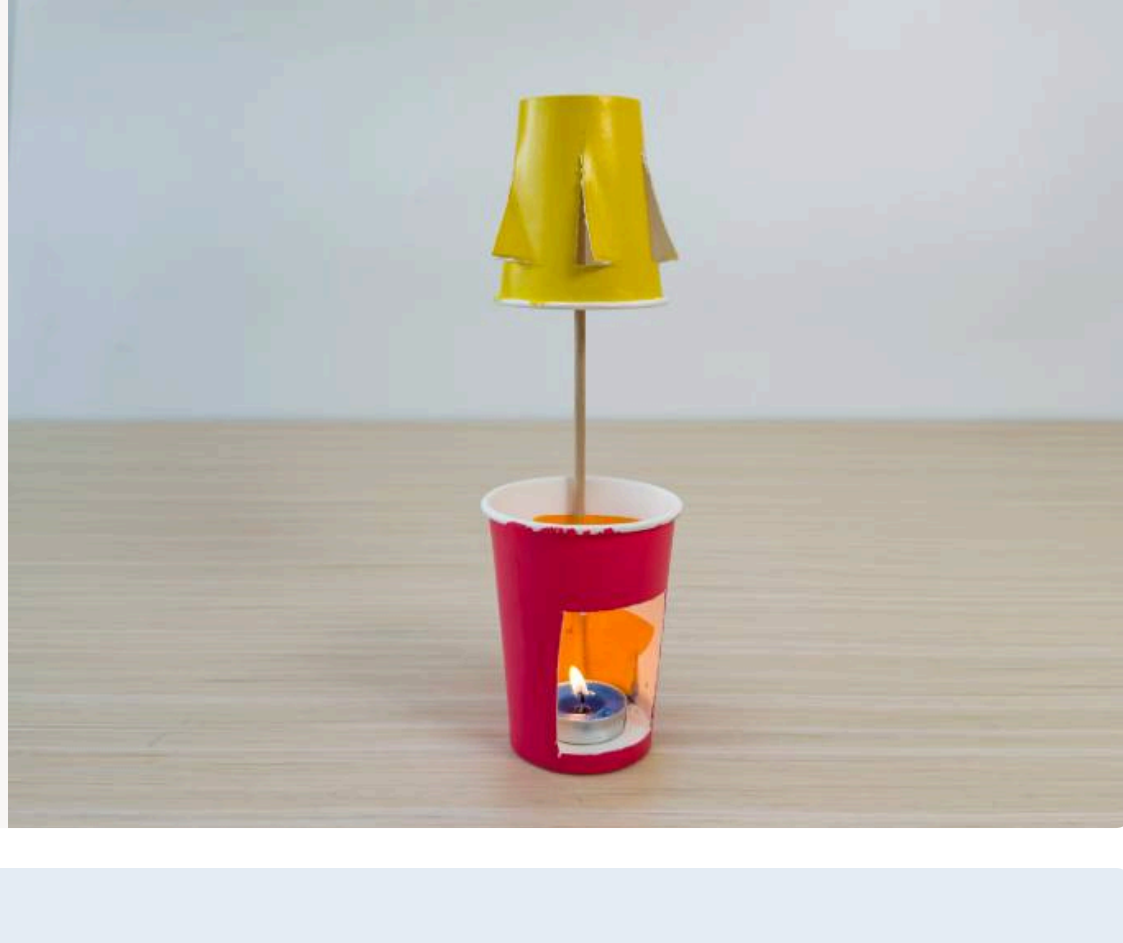
Ages: 9-12



Greater than 30 minutes



Grownup needed



Create an amazing spinning lantern using items you might have lying around at home! Complete this project in just 9 simple steps and explore the invisible magic that makes the lantern spin!

Materials Needed

Two paper cups
Scissors
Paint
Palette
Lighter
Candle
Pencil
Paintbrush
Wooden stick
Ruler
Tape

Step-by-step tutorial

Step 1

Take the paper cups and paint them in your favourite colours using the paintbrush and paint.

Step 2

Once the cups are dry, take one cup and place it upside down. Using the ruler, measure and mark 1.5cm from both the top and bottom of the cup with a pencil. Then draw "L" shapes between these marks as shown in the diagram, making five "L" shapes at equal distances around the cup.

Step 3

Cut along the marked "L" shapes with scissors.

Step 4

Bend the five "L" shapes outward from the cup as shown.

Step 5

Take the remaining cup and place it right side up. Using the ruler, measure and mark a 5cm x 6cm rectangle on the cup.

Step 6

Carefully cut out the rectangle along the marked lines using scissors.

Step 7

Take the wooden stick and tape it to the inside of the cup.

Step 8

Place a lit candle through the rectangular opening you cut in step 6. Ask an adult to help with this step.

Step 9

Now place the cup with the "L" shapes upside down on the wooden stick, trying to align the openings of both cups. Wait patiently, and your lantern will begin to spin. Adult supervision is required for this step - remember fire safety!

The Science Behind It:

The heat from the flame warms the surrounding air. The heated air molecules have lower density and therefore rise, creating an upward current. This rising air current pushes against the fan blades (the "L" shapes), causing the lantern to rotate.