

Script for leaders

Follow along with the video session for
‘Chinese window flowers’.



Explain what you're doing today, give everyone a bit of background information, and make sure they have what they need. You could say something like:

Today we're trying something new by making window flowers – paper cuttings inspired by an ancient Chinese form of art and decoration. They're usually stuck to windows so the light shines through them – so hopefully you'll enjoy getting stuck in.

To make Chinese window flowers, everyone will need a pen or pencil, some paper, and a pair of scissors. Everyone got that? Show them to the camera... great, let's go!

Talk everyone through the first few steps of making their template and drawing around it. As people get stuck in, explain why paper cuttings are used in China. You could say something like:

First things first, we're going to make our template. Draw half of your pattern on a piece of paper – designs often include Chinese characters for things like fortune, happiness, and spring. The person on the video's including double happiness.

Once you're got your template, fold a piece of paper in half. Put your template against the folded edge and draw around it. Double-check it's on the folded edge, otherwise it'll all fall apart when you cut it out – and we don't want that.

Just like in the UK, in China, people celebrate lots of different festivals and events throughout the year. Paper cuttings are used for most of them because they're a low-cost decoration that looks great too. It's a bit like how we might make paper chains or paper snowflakes in winter.

Explain that everyone needs to cut out their design. As they're concentrating, tell them a bit more about Chinese festivals. You could say something like:

Once you've drawn around your design, carefully cut it out.

Chinese festivals include Chinese New Year where people clean their houses to make way for good luck and share food and fireworks; the quinming festival, where people visit their ancestors' graves to clean, pray, and make offerings; and the dragon boat festival where people race dragon boats, eat rice dumplings, and, in some areas, make special bracelets.

Finally, tell everyone to unfold their window flowers and hold them up so everyone can see. This is a great chance to put a smile on people's face by pointing out what makes each design wonderful. You could say something like:

Now you've cut your design out, unfold it and you're done. Let's all hold our window flowers up to the camera so everyone can see.