ARTMAKING PROJECT | Glass Luminaries!

The word *luminary* was originally used to refer to celestial objects such as the sun and the moon because these are the brightest objects in the sky. In time it came to refer to any object that contains a source of light, such as a paper bag containing a small candle.

In Mexico these are known as luminaria, and in parts of New Mexico they are called *farolitos*, which is Spanish for “little lanterns.” Traditionally they are used during the winter holiday season, but people enjoy making them at any time of the year to decorate their homes. For this project we’ll use recycled glass jars and tissue paper for a stained glass effect.

You’ll find many examples of stained glass in the DIA collection, including this window from the Unitarian Church on Woodward by artist John La Farge. To hear more about this work, check out this video [https://youtu.be/rwEjWK-ot5c](https://youtu.be/rwEjWK-ot5c).

THINGS TO CONSIDER

How will you decorate your luminary?  
What might your luminary represent to you?  
Where in your home will you display your luminary? Maybe on a mantle, window sill, or end table?

MATERIALS

- Glass jar
- Tissue paper
- Glue stick
- Candle (real or electronic)
- Scissors
ARTMAKING PROJECT | Directions

Step 1
Choose a jar! You can reuse a baby food jar, or one that held jam, pickles, anything! Make sure to wash it out and let it dry completely. If you have trouble removing the label, try soaking your jar in warm soapy water.

Step 2
Choose what color tissue paper you want to use. Cut it into shapes, or try ripping it to get unique edges. Stick with one color, or try overlapping colors and see what effects you can create. Cover the whole jar, or leave some areas blank to let more light shine through.

Step 3
Apply your gluestick to the tissue and then press firmly onto the outside of your jar. You’ll want to leave the inside bare.

Step 4
Add a mini electronic or teallight candle and watch as your design becomes illuminated!

Share it with us on social media at #AtHomeDIA