

El Pueblo Historical Monument

Las Posadas Candle At-Home Workshop

El PuebloTM de Los Angeles



This workshop is fun for all ages and created with things you may already have at home. Create a homemade candle out of construction paper.

Historic Facts about Las Posadas

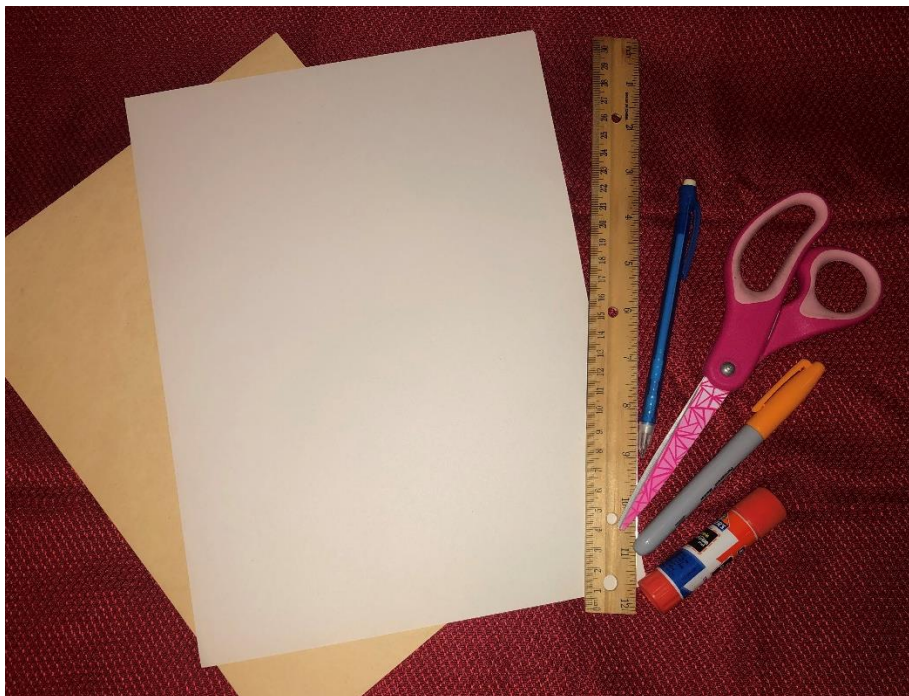
Las Posadas is the celebration and recreation of Mary and Joseph of Nazareth traveling to Bethlehem seeking shelter or *posada* to give birth to the baby Jesus. These celebrations last the nine nights leading to Christmas and include beautiful music and a procession led by a child dressed as an angel carrying a candle. The tradition of Posadas began in the 16th Century combining both Catholic tradition and Aztec traditions to tell the story of Christmas. Today, Las Posadas is celebrated in many countries. El Pueblo Historical Monument, as home of world-famous Olvera Street, has been the site of Las Posadas since its opening in 1930. Leo Politi, a well-known and loved artist and children's author, wrote a book all about the celebration of Las Posadas on Olvera Street. *Pedro, The Angel of Olvera Street* was based on a real little boy whose family worked on Olvera Street. Because Pedro has a beautiful singing voice, like an "angel" they say, he is given the honor of leading the Las Posadas procession.

Materials

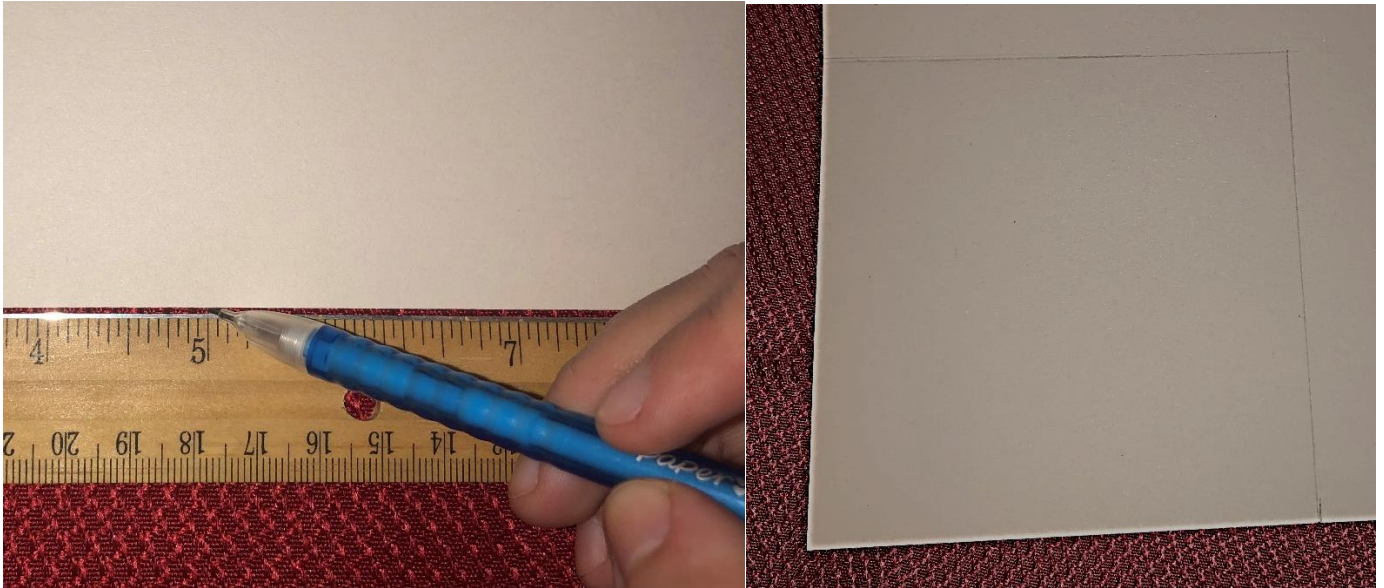
- Construction paper: (1) sheet any color and (1) yellow
- Glue
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Markers (various colors)
- Ruler

Steps/Instructions

Step One: Collect all your materials on a flat surface.

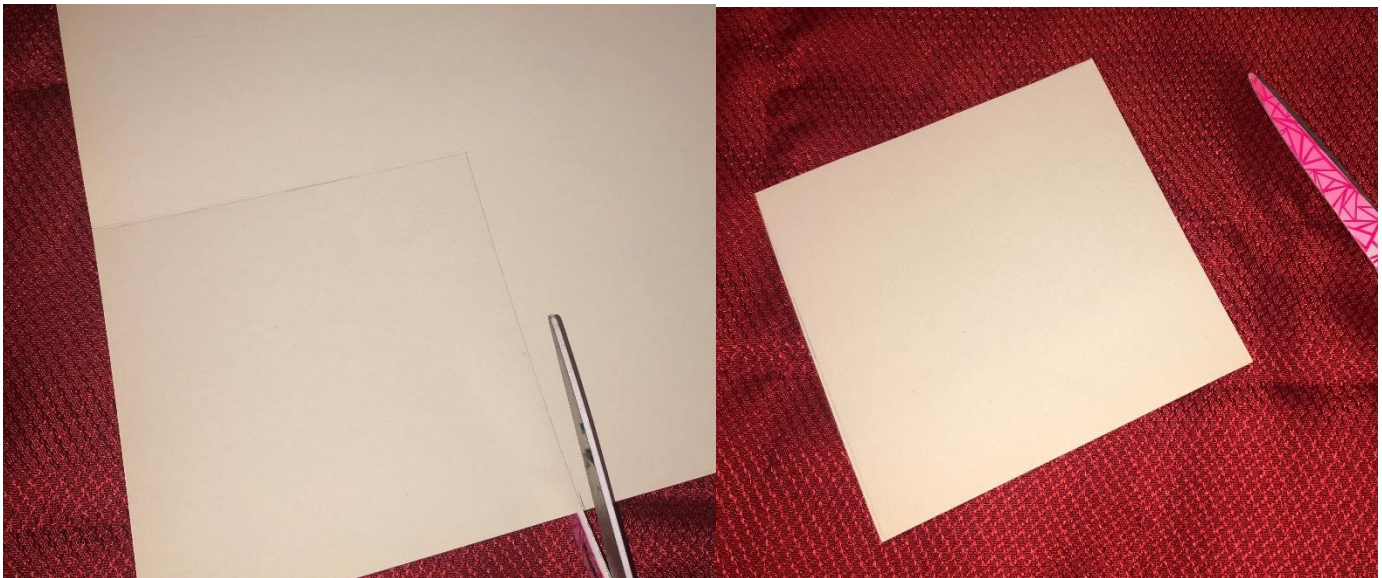


Step Two: Mark out a five (5) inch by five (5) inch square on the construction paper you would like to be the body of your candle.



Hint: Five (5) inches wide makes a perfect width, but they can be as tall as you would like. To make a beautiful arrangement create multiple candles that stand at different heights! Anywhere from four (4) to ten (10) inches tall will work.

Step Three: Cut out the square.



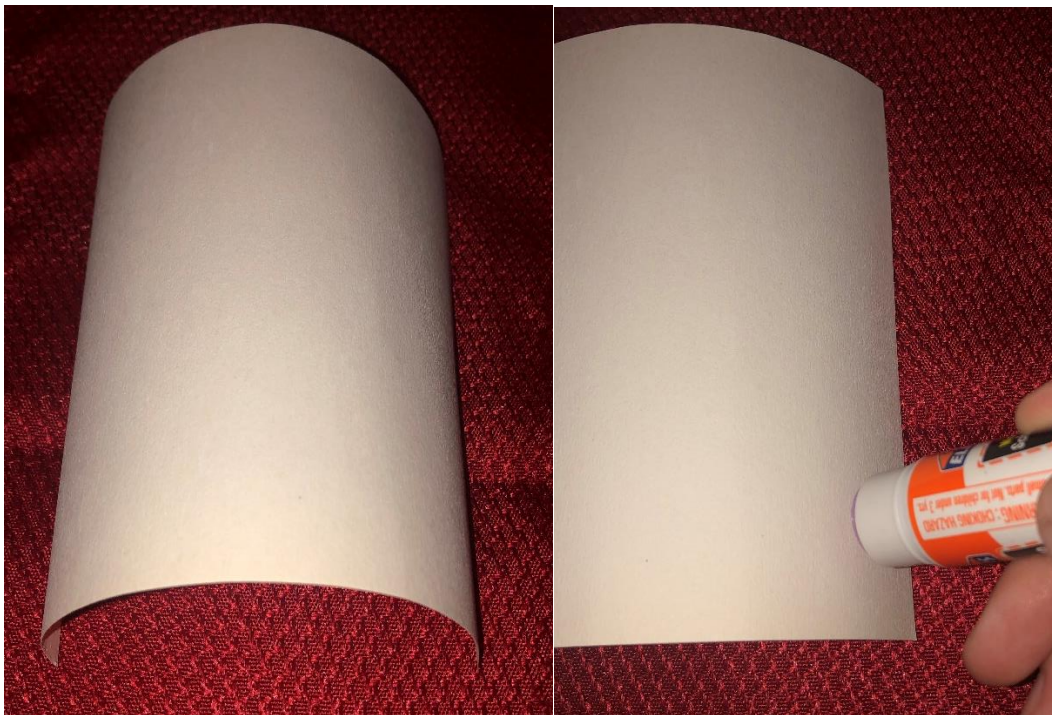
Hint: At this time you can decorate the outside of your candle with markers or stickers!

Step Four: Gently roll the square of paper into a tight scroll and hold for about thirty (30) seconds.



Hint: This will make the candle easier to glue together.

Step Five: Unroll the paper and glue along one edge.



Step Six: Roll the construction paper into a cylinder and affix one edge to the other covered with glue.



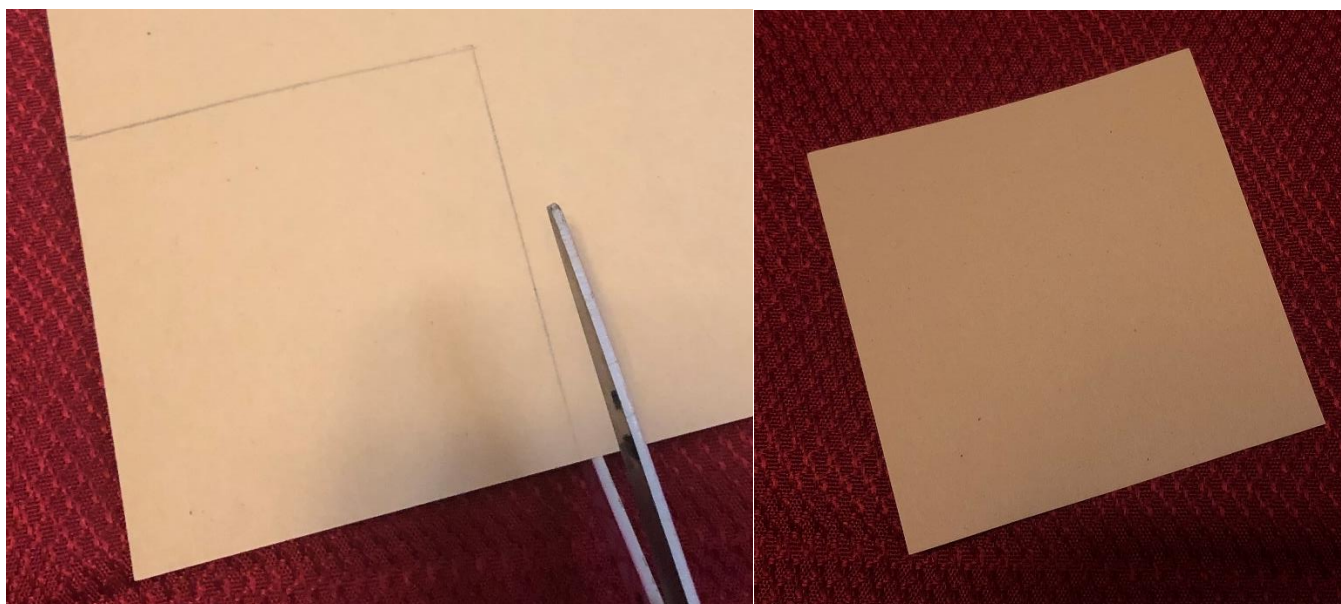
Hint: Hold the tube like this for thirty (30) seconds to allow the glue to set up.

Step Seven: Trace a three (3) by three (3) inch square in your yellow construction paper.



Hint: Yellow sticky-notes also work great for this step!

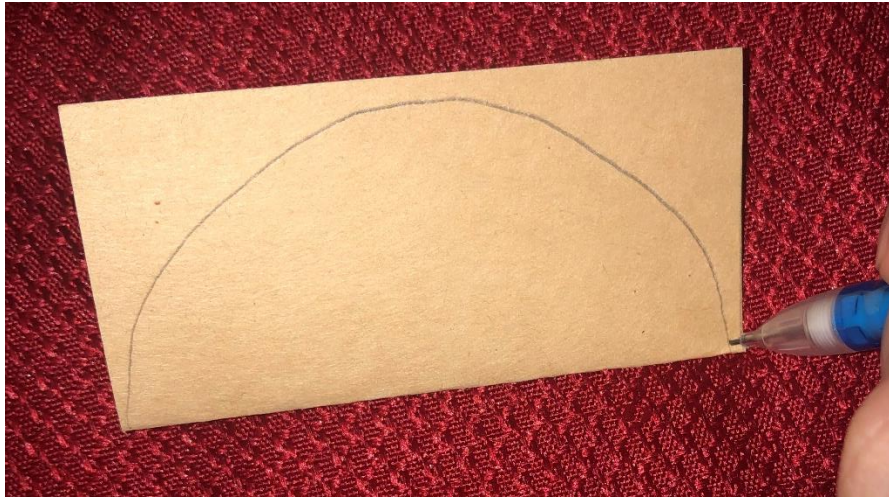
Step Eight: Cut out the small yellow square.



Step Nine: Fold the small square in half.



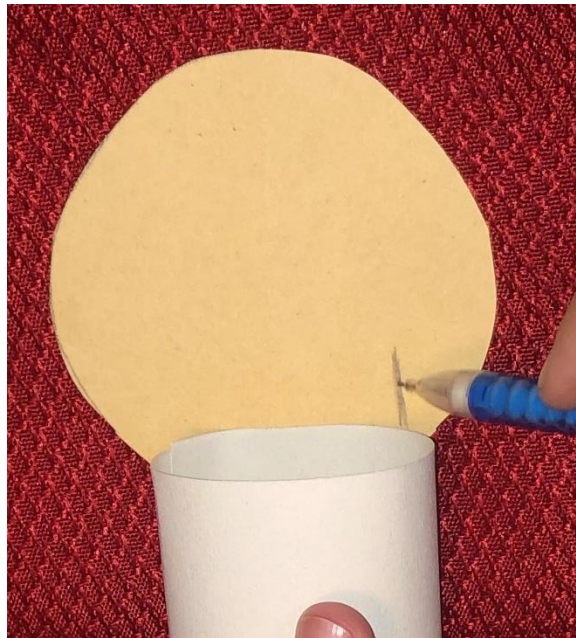
Step Ten: Trace a half circle on the small square and cut it out.



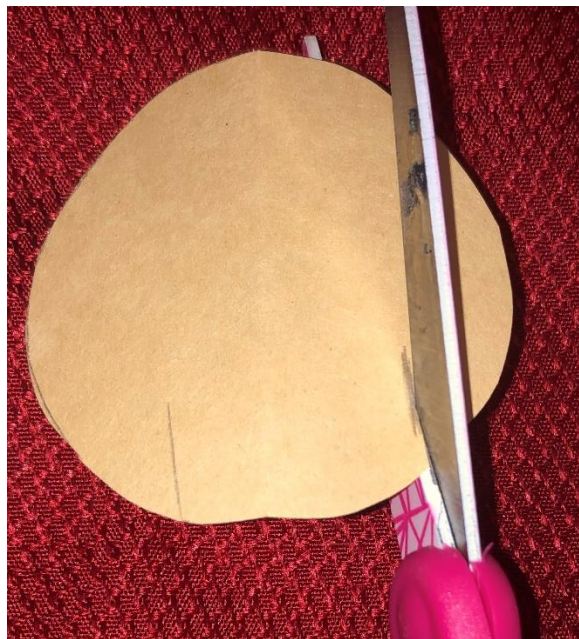
Step Eleven: Flatten the circle and lay the body of the candle on top of it.



Step Twelve: Trace two small lines on the yellow circle showing where the edge of the candle is.

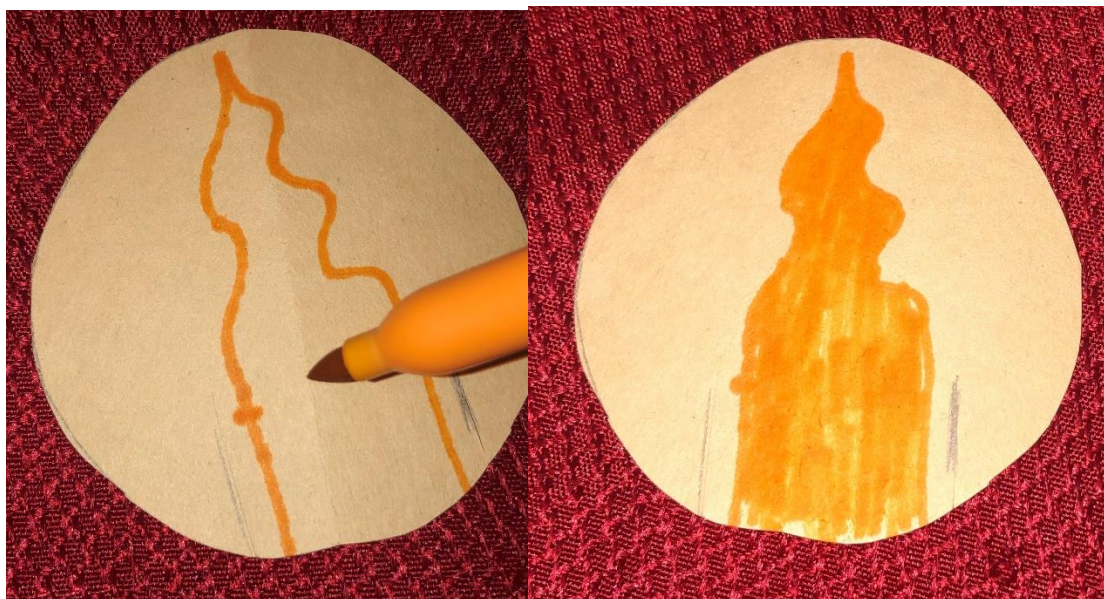


Step Thirteen: Cut along these lines, creating about ¼ Inch notches in the yellow circle.

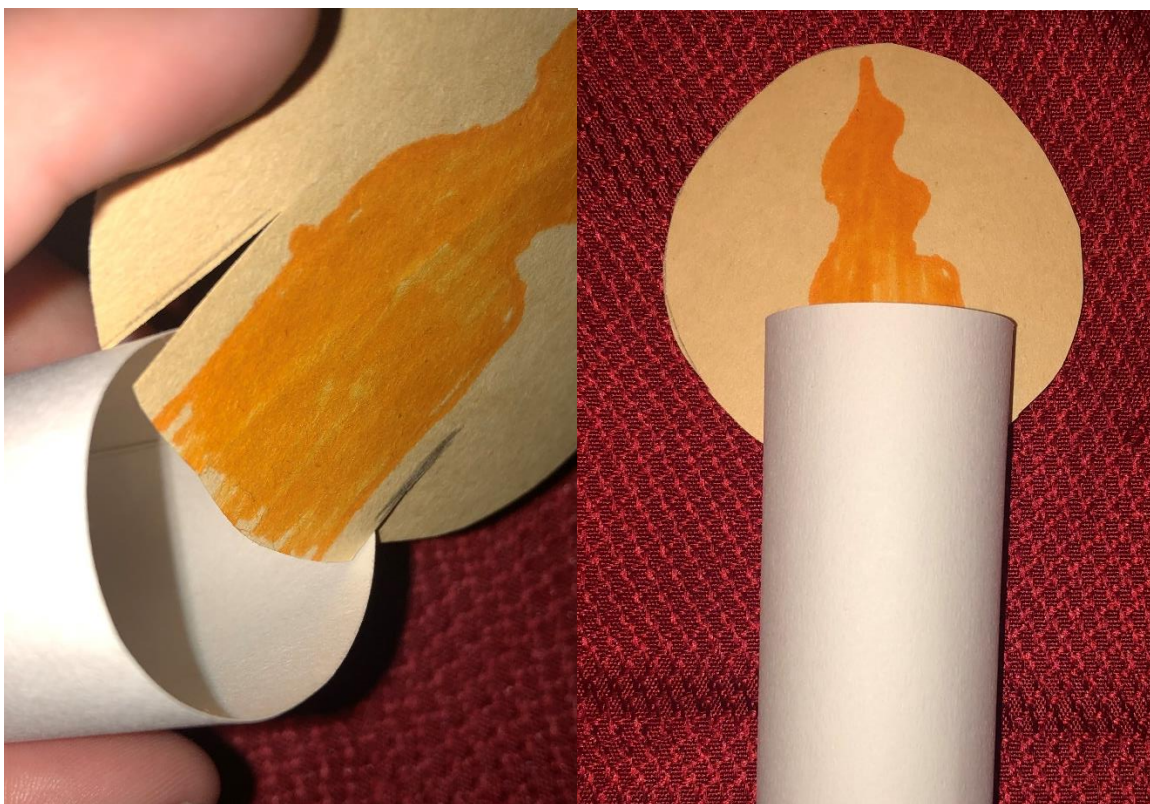


Hint: These notches will help the flame stay on your candle.

Step Fourteen: Inbetween the two notches you cut, draw a flame using markers. Make it extend *almost* to the top of the circle.



Step Fifteen: Gently slide the notches of your flame over the edges of the candle.



Congratulations! You have created your very own beautiful and unique candle! Stay safe and we hope to see you on your next visit to El Pueblo Historical Monument soon!