



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Lunar New Year, which marks the start of the calendar year in many cultures around the world, starts on January 22 this year.



Cherry blossoms, a sign of new beginnings, are often used to decorate for Lunar New Year.

## Celebrate Lunar New Year with a craft

### What you need

- Tissue paper
- Pencil
- Round items to trace in a few sizes, such as coins, a spice jar lid, or a small juice cup
- Scissors
- Dull pencil
- Hot glue and gun (with adult supervision) or white glue
- Small branches with no leaves
- Small recycled jars, bottles, or vases

### Instructions

1. Stack a few pieces of tissue paper together and, with a pencil, trace a variety of circles onto it using the round items. Cut the circles out, making sure to cut a few layers of the tissue circles at a time.
2. Take two circles of the same size and gently push the dull point of the pencil down into the center so the circle's edges come up and the center is pushed down.
3. Remove the pencil. Twist the pointy bottom of the tissue paper, created by the pencil, from underneath so the two layers are twisted together at the center. Pinch the pointy bottom with your fingernails and twist more until the layers are really twisted together. You've made a blossom!
4. While holding the twisted bottom securely, use your fingers to separate the layers of tissue paper to open up the petals if you'd like.
5. Repeat to make as many blossoms as you'd like.
6. Adhere the blossoms all over the branches, gluing the smaller blossoms to the tips of the branches and adding larger ones to the thicker part of the branches. Leave the thicker end of the branch free of petals, since you will place that part into a container.
7. Display your cherry blossom branches standing up in small jars, bottles, or vases.



### ECO TIP OF THE WEEK SPEND MORE TIME OUTSIDE THIS YEAR

Being outdoors—whether playing in the snow or going to a playground—has many benefits. It can boost your mood, help you stay more active, and give you an appreciation for the natural world. This year, consider making a commitment to spend more time outdoors. You can do this on your own or with friends and family. For instance, you could try walking to school more often or asking your teacher if you can go outside for recess, even when it's chilly out. You can also consider joining the 1,000 Hours Outside Challenge. The aim is to spend 1,000 hours outside, and people worldwide have tried it. Find out more at [1000hoursoutside.com](http://1000hoursoutside.com).

