

Hello!

Thanks for joining in with this project, we hope you'll have fun taking part.

Together with people from Chatham and across Medway we're making a collection of **big, colourful, illuminated lanterns**, and the Pentagon in Chatham will install them along walkways in their shopping centre through December 2020 and January 2021.

You'll be making parts of the lanterns at home, then artist Xtina Lamb (working with Ideas Test) will gather all the pieces and join them together. The illuminated artworks will grow and become more beautiful as more people join in with us.

This project is called **Hopes & Dreams**, so when you're making your part of the art, think about things that make you feel positive. What are you looking forward to? What makes you happy? Is it a person, an object or place, or something else?

## Turn plastic bag waste into beautiful lanterns

We'll be reusing unwanted plastic carrier bags and making them into pictures. Have a look in your cupboards or ask around if anyone has bags they don't need anymore. When you cut up plastic bags, it's like working with tissue paper. Pictures made from the bags look really good with light shining through them.

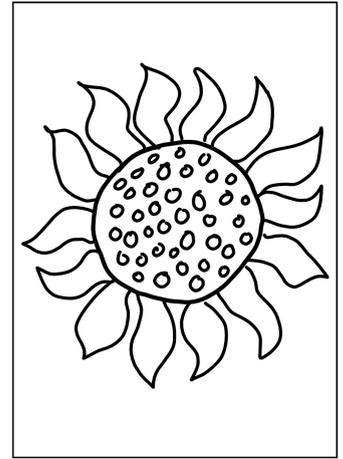
### What you'll need:

- A plain white, pale colour or clear plastic bag
- Colourful plastic bags
- Scissors
- A glue stick
- A pen (e.g. biro or gel pen in a dark colour)
- Sheets of paper

We have some free activity packs available to in-need or shielding households.

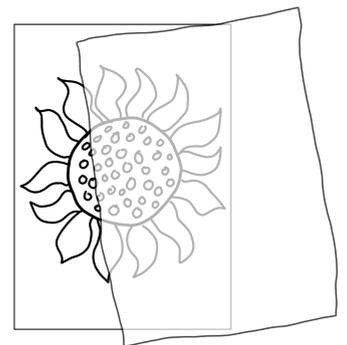
## Step 1

Think of something that makes you feel hopeful or positive. What makes you smile when you see it? Is there something good that you're looking forward to or hoping for? What do you daydream about? If it's not easy to draw a picture of, just think about colours or shapes that remind you of it. Choose one positive thing, and if you can - draw a simple picture of it on the paper. Go bold. The lanterns will be seen from a few feet away, so draw as large as you can on the paper.



## Step 2

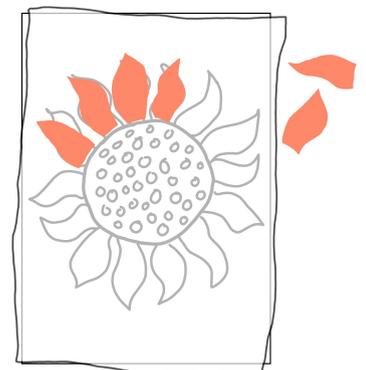
Take the picture (if you drew one) and place a rectangle of white or clear plastic bag over the top of it. You should be able to see your drawing through it.



## Step 3

Make a new picture on the white plastic bag. Cut out pieces of the colourful plastic bags with the scissors, and paste them onto the white bag background with a glue stick. To match up shapes, put your colourful bags over your drawing, and use your pen to trace the parts you need to cut out.

Make sure all the pieces are well stuck down and as flat as possible, and check how it all looks if you hold it up to the light. If the glue goes on in a lump, spread it out a bit with your finger.



## Step 4

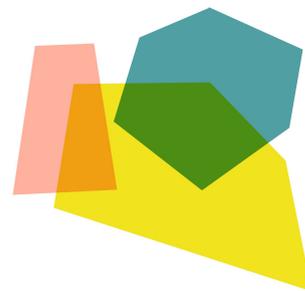
Please save any scraps of plastic that you cut up but don't use, even the teeny tiny ones. We'd like you to give those to us rather than throwing them away as we can use them in the lanterns. You can either put them all into an envelope, or stick them down onto another rectangle of white or clear plastic bag.

For more information and an instructional video, please visit:  
[ideatestest.org.uk](http://ideatestest.org.uk)

## Techniques & Tips

You can use different techniques to make your picture. Try out some of the following:

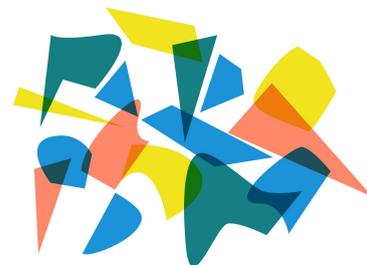
Layer colours over the top of each other so that new colours are made when you hold them to the light.



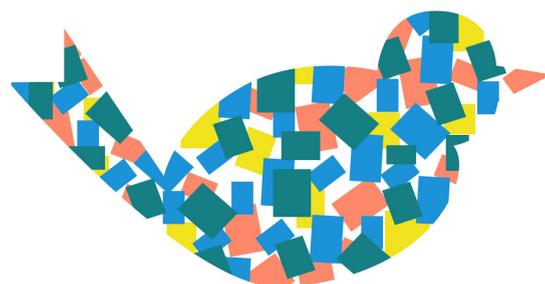
If you want to include words or letters, you can either cut them out of the colourful bags, or use letters from writing on the bags and put them together to form words.



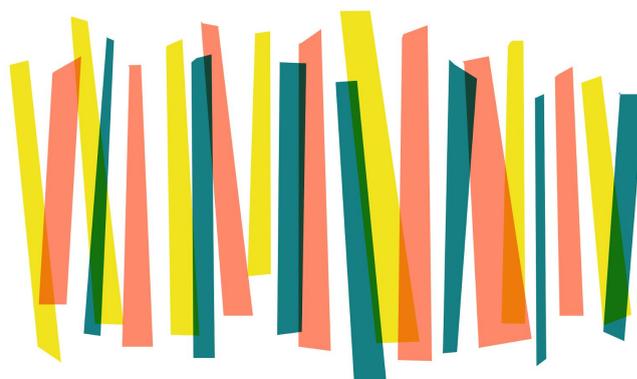
Stick any left-over, scrap pieces of plastic onto another white or clear bag. They make good backgrounds, or we can use those to join together parts of the lanterns.



Cut up several colours into squares, triangles, circles etc., then stick them in a random pattern to fill up a shape. So if you had the outline of a bird, you could fill up the bird shape with an assortment of colours. If the outline gets messy, you can cut it out and stick it onto another white bag.



Make patterns with simple shapes like circles, triangles, squares or stripes.



## Let's have those pictures

When finished, please write on a sheet of paper:

- Names of everyone who took part.
- An email or phone number if you'd like to receive updates on the project from Ideas Test.
- Your postcode (at least the first part please, this really helps us for funding).
- What the hopes and dreams in your pictures are.

Put this with your pictures, stacked flat in a carrier bag or folded in a large envelope. Place any scraps of plastic in a separate bag and put them in with the pictures.

## Drop-off points

If you are able to bring your pictures to us, these are the drop-off points:

**Rochester:** Intra Arts, 337-341 High Street, Rochester ME1 1DA

**Chatham:** Cafe Nucleus Lounge, 13 Military Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4JG

Please hand it to staff (if drop off point is open), or use the letterbox if closed.

If your pictures need to be collected from addresses in Chatham, please contact us on 07713 865955 or [contact@ideastest.co.uk](mailto:contact@ideastest.co.uk)

**Hopes & Dreams** is funded by Medway Council and Chatham Town Centre Forum, supported by the Pentagon Shopping Centre, and commissioned by Ideas Test.



# Hopes & Dreams

Name/s:

Email address or phone number for updates on the project:

Postcode:

Hopes and dreams in your pictures: