

Craft Recycled Cardboard Dragons

In Chinese mythology, dragons are legendary creatures. They were used as a symbol of power and strength, as well as good luck. These mythological creatures are **composites**, meaning they are made up various parts of real-life animals (for example, its head is said to look like a camel, its body has the scales of a fish).



Dragons can be found on many artifacts at the Penn Museum, including the *Buzi* (sometimes referred to as Mandarin squares) above. These are colorfully embroidered squares that were sewn onto the outer coats of Chinese officials during the Qing dynasty (15th-20th centuries CE). Join us in creating paper dragons to spread the luck of the dragon to your family and friends!

MATERIALS:

Toilet Paper Roll	Paint	Pom poms (you'll need 4)	Googly Eyes (you'll need 2)	Tissue Paper	Glue
					

STEP ONE: Paint your toilet paper roll in your choice of color. You may decide to keep it a solid color like we did, or add designs and color – tap into your creative side! Allow the paint to dry.



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STEP TWO: Glue two pom poms onto one side of the tube. Once the pom poms dry, add one googly eye to each (an alternative is to use two beads instead of pom poms – like we did – and use a bit of black paint to make pupils).



STEP THREE: Glue two smaller pom poms (or beads) on the far side of the roll –aligned with the googly eyes glued on in step two. These are your dragon's nostrils!



STEP FOUR: Cut tissue paper into strips. Keep them as wide or narrow as you wish. We kept ours gold, but you can use any color tissue paper. In Chinese mythology, the dragon is depicted NOT as fire-breathing, but as cloud-breathing. You may wish to keep that in mind in your choice of color.



STEP FIVE: Add glue to the inside of the end of your toilet roll, opposite the eyes of your dragon. This is your dragon's mouth! Stick your strands of tissue paper inside of the roll. Set your dragon aside to dry.



When everything is dry, you can blow air through your dragon to add a fun effect!