

Activity: Lantern Colouring and Decoration

Ramadan lanterns or fanous (“The light of the world”) are a cultural symbol associated with the holy month. Believed to originate in Egypt, dating back to the Fatimid era, they are still a familiar sight and are used to decorate streets, shops, mosques and houses during Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr as a representation of all things good.



Each country has their own style of decoration, however in North African countries arabesque designs are predominant.

The dazzlingly colourful lanterns have a beautiful and luminous effect on everyone who sees them, especially children. Over time, they have come to be seen as the light we share with others.

What you will need:

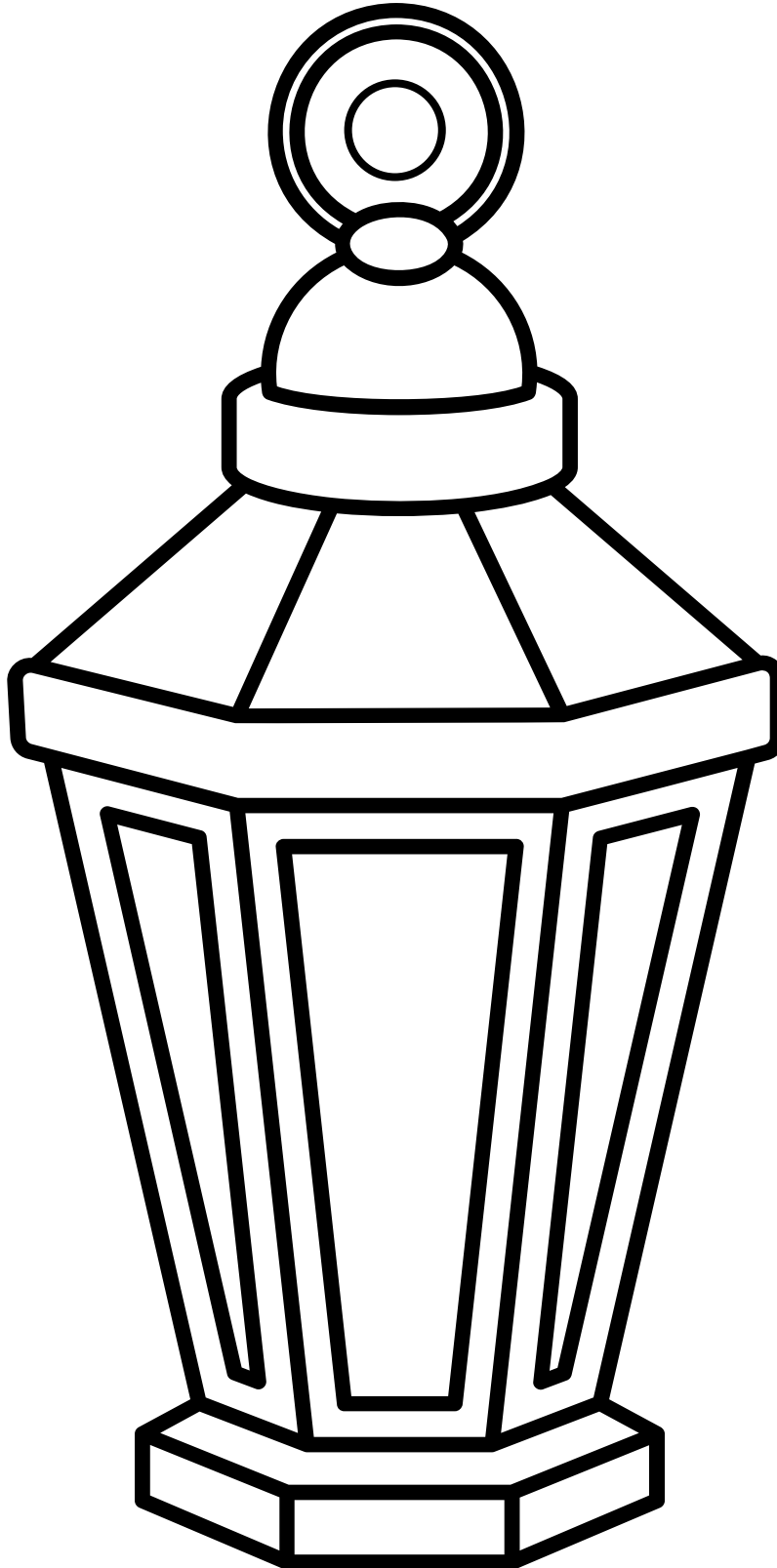
- Paints, crayons or coloured pens or pencils
- Stickers and glitter (optional)
- Paper
- Printer
- Scissors
- Glue, sticky tape or stapler (optional)
- String or wool (optional)
- Different colour cards (optional)
- Colourful tissue paper (optional)

Variations:

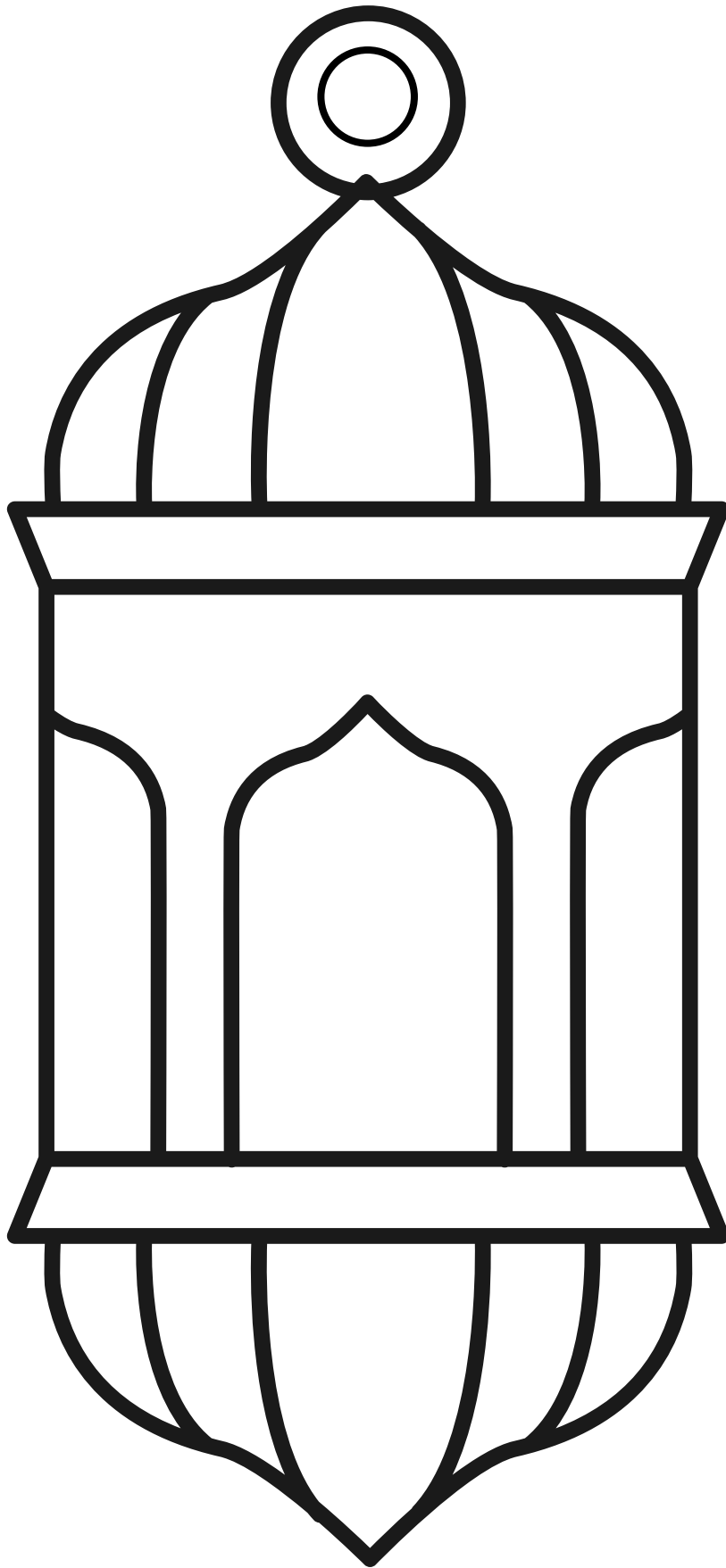
For extra strength, you can print the template onto different coloured cards. You can print each template multiple times or print each template onto coloured cards for a simple design. For easier colouring, no cutting is required - just print the sheet. For a more complex lamp, try also cutting out the windows inside the lantern templates and sticking colourful tissue paper behind them.

How to:

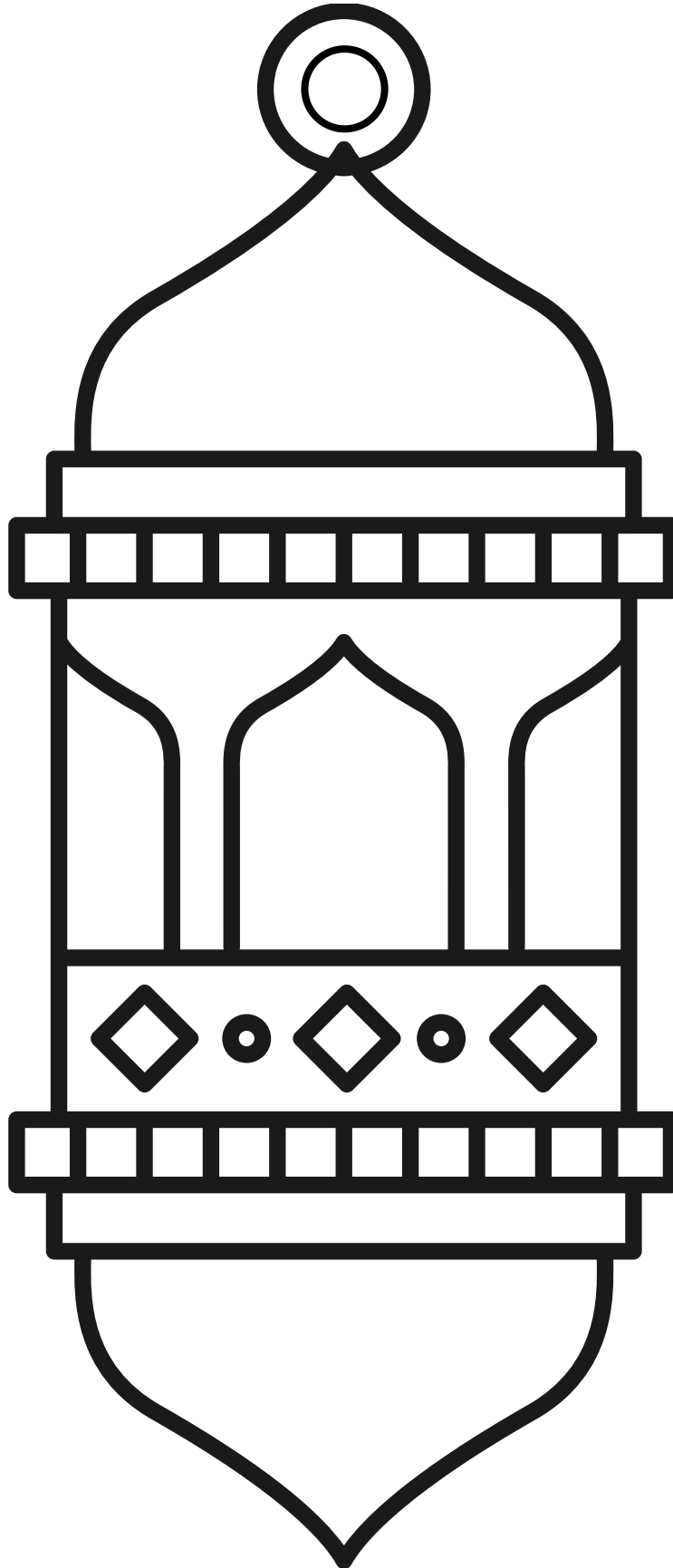
1. Print the lantern, stars or half moons templates onto plain paper.
2. Colour in or paint the template as desired.
3. Add stickers, glitter, or any other decoration you'd like to your lantern.
4. Once decorated, cut along the outside lines on the sheet, and pierce the hole at the top with a pencil or cut it with scissors (Participants may need some assistance with using scissors).
5. You have the option to thread some strings or wool through the hole to create an amazing hanging decoration. Lanterns can hang individually, or on a string with others.
6. You can add stars or half moons to create a more eye-catching decoration.



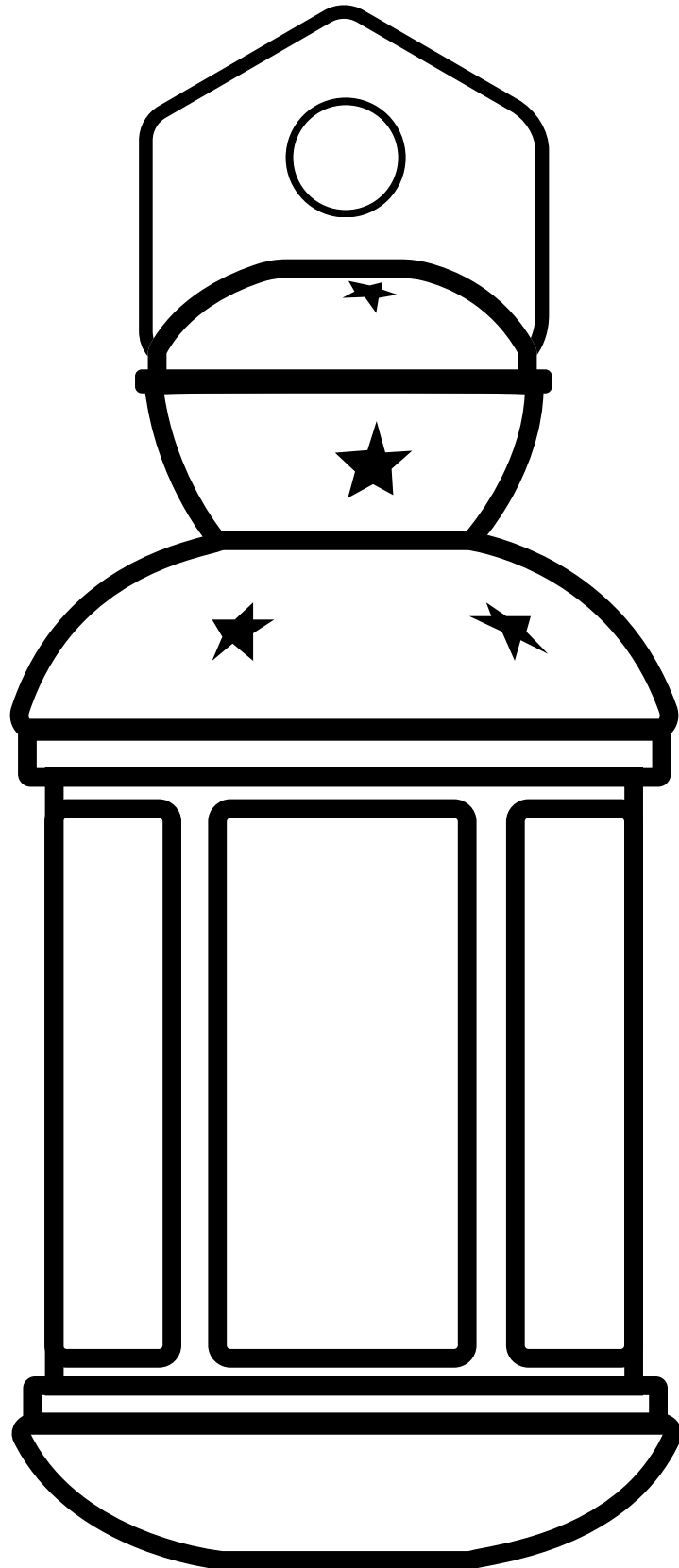
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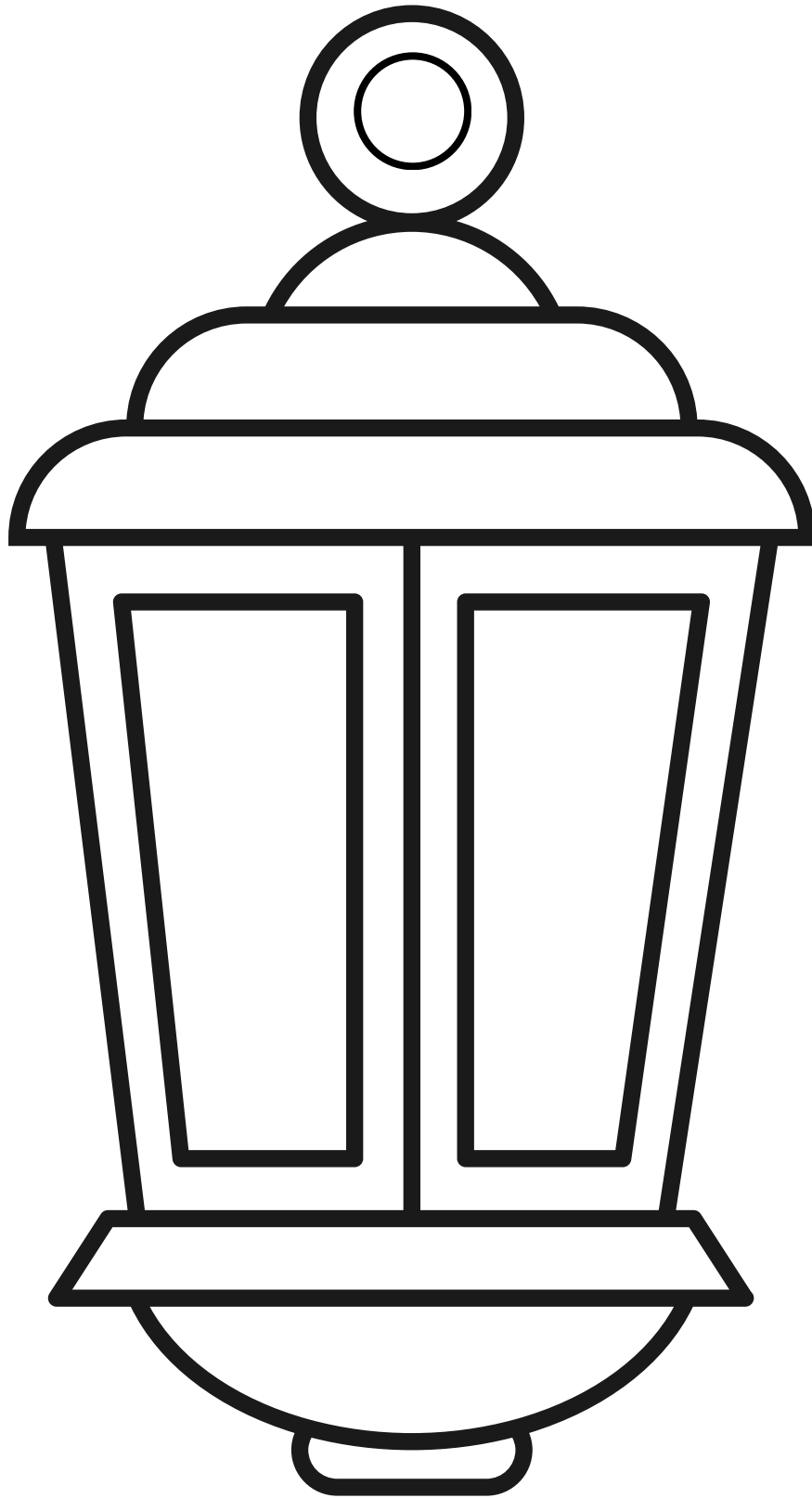
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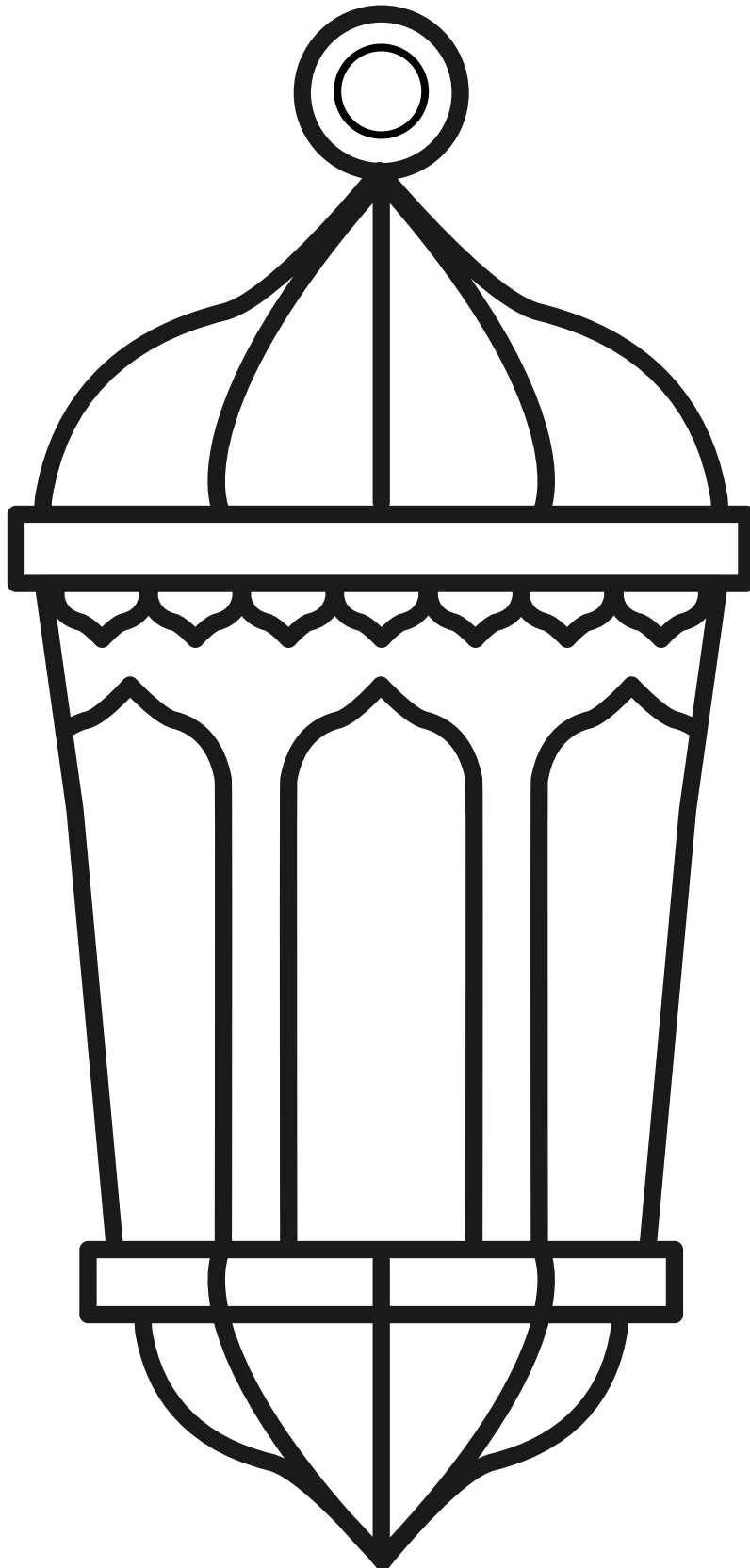
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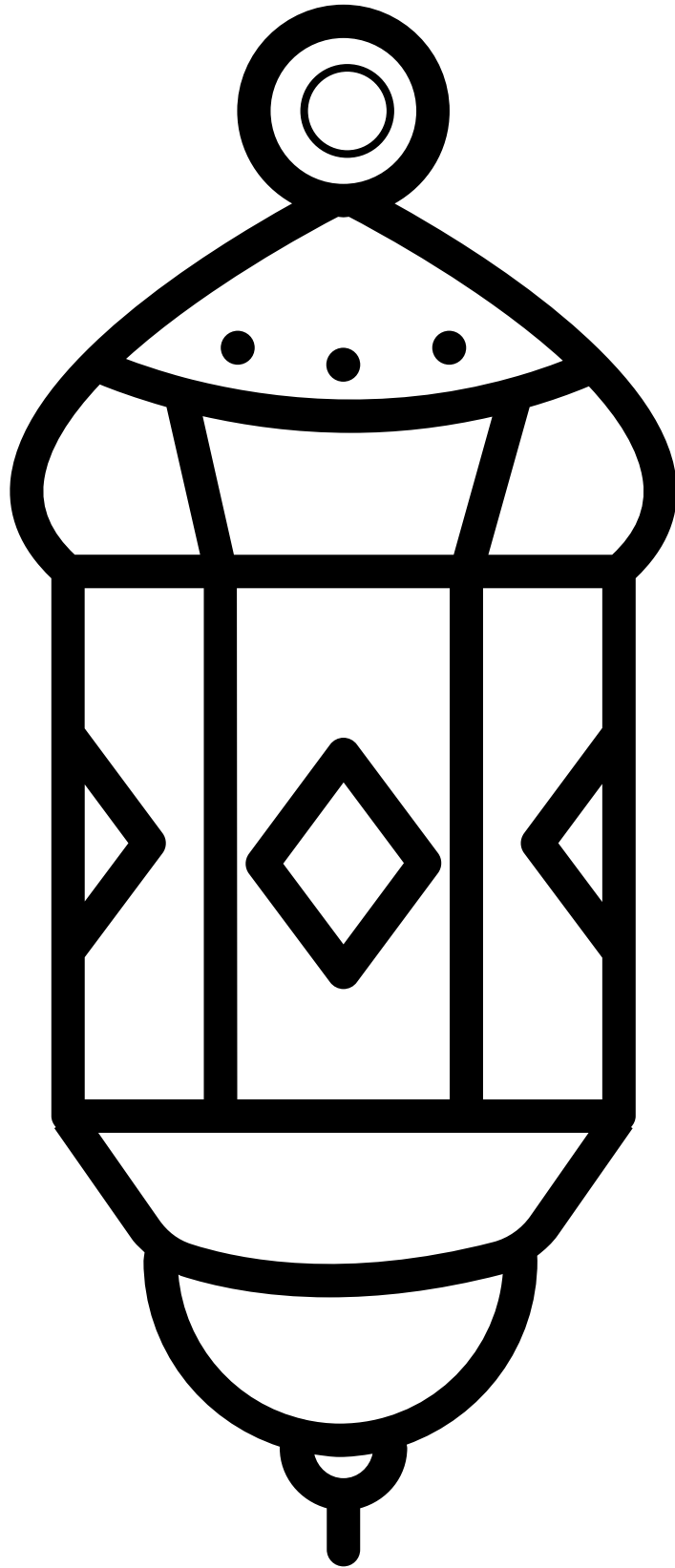
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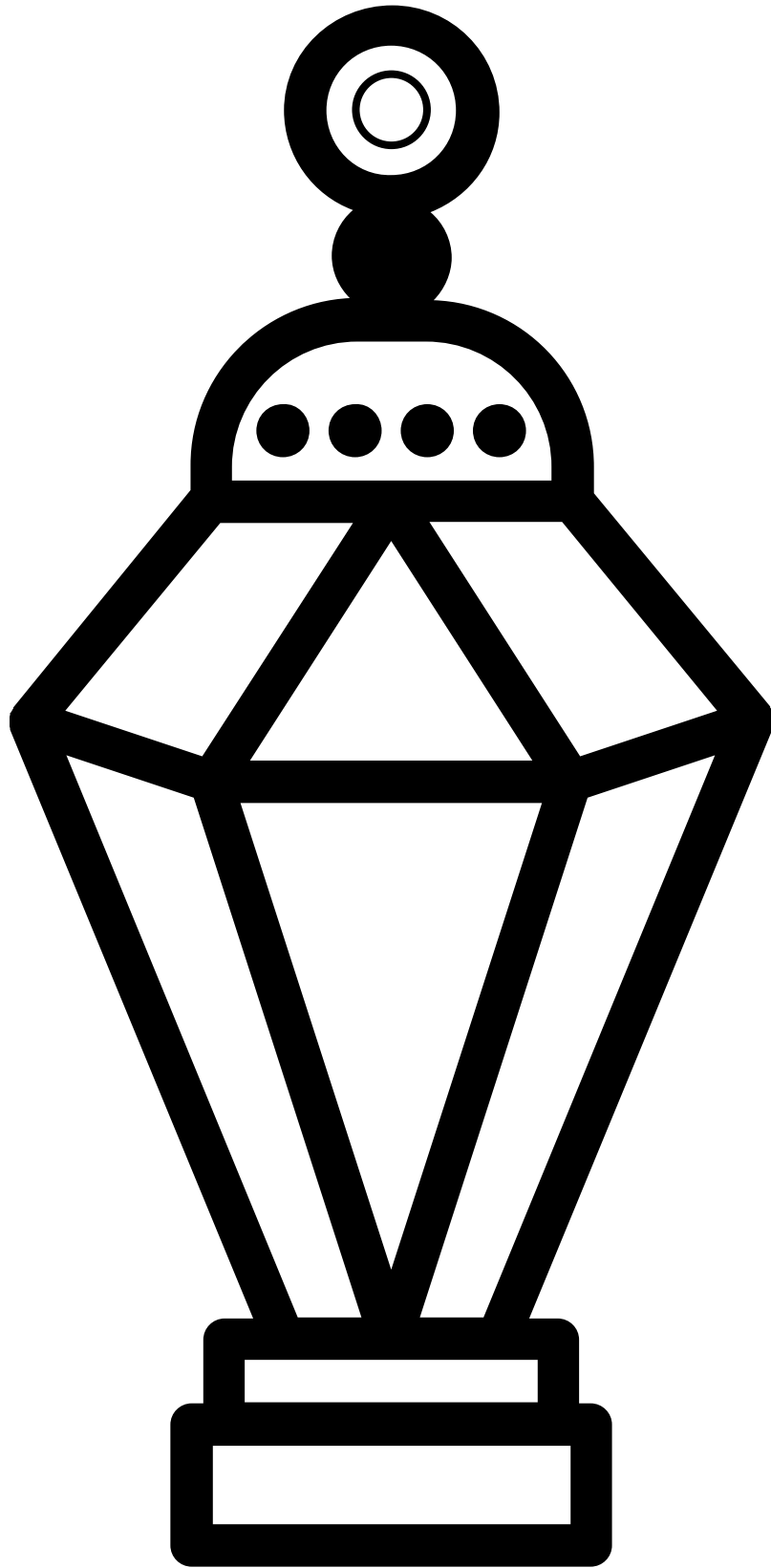
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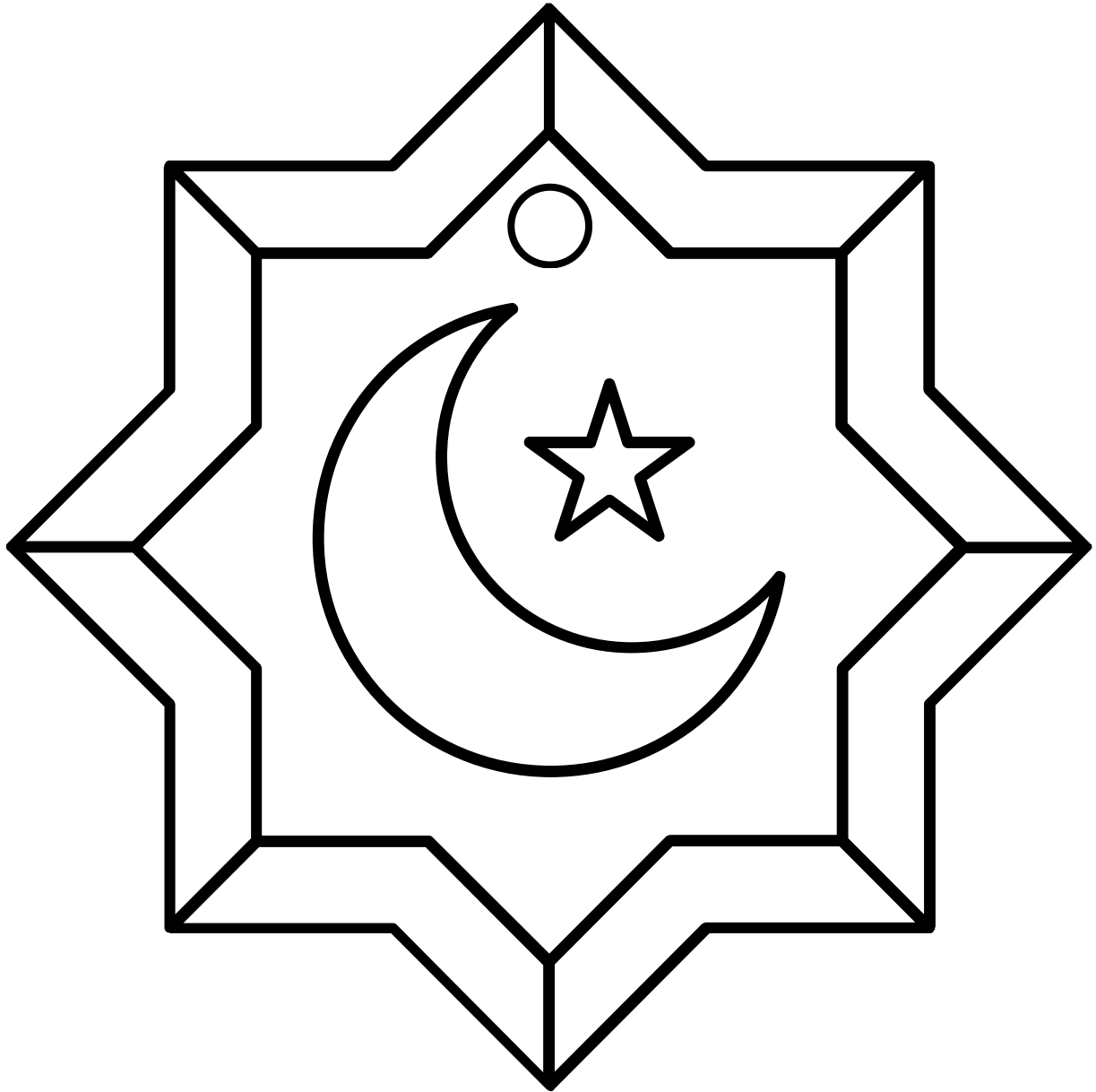
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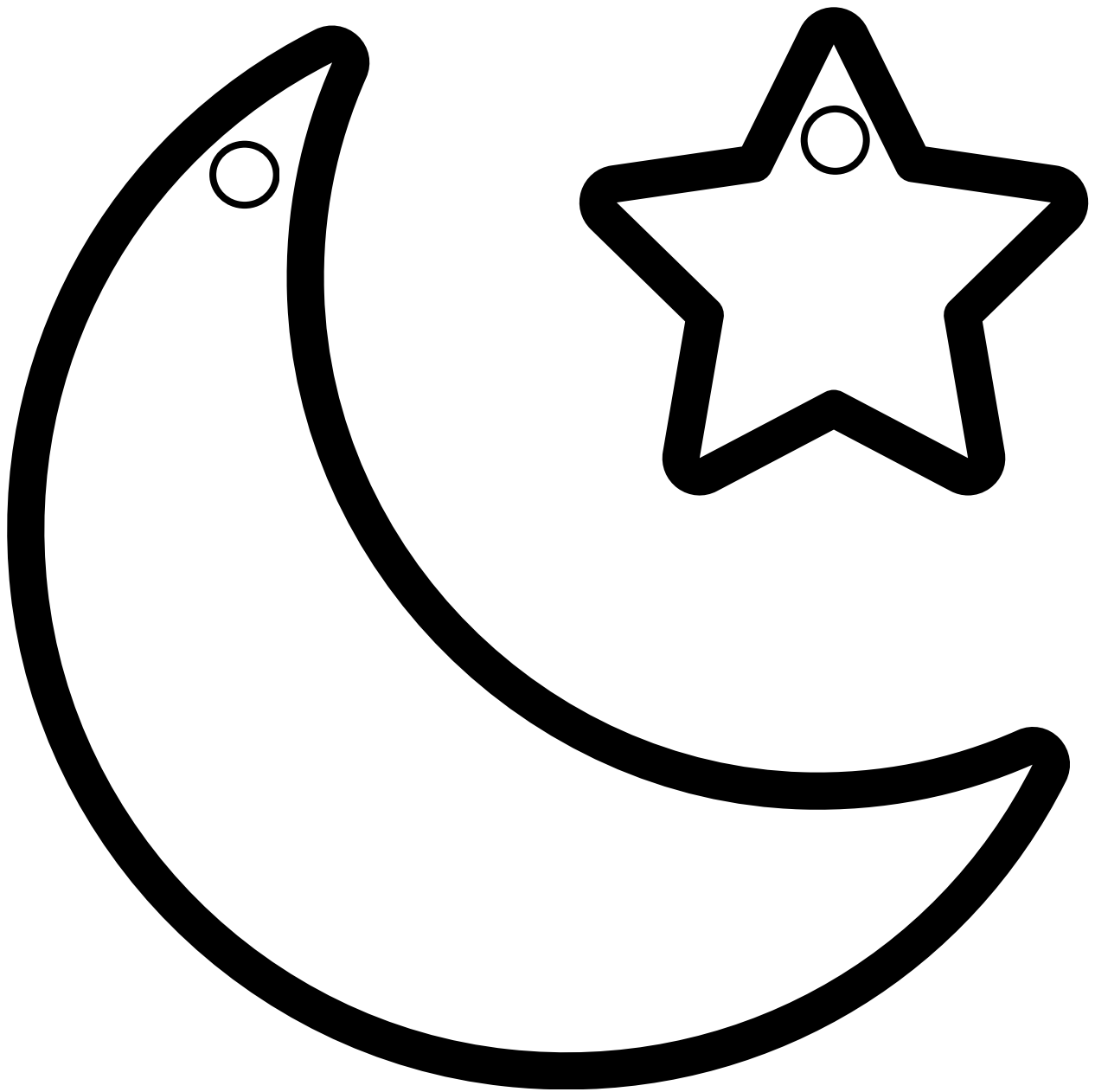
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