

# Make your own Pierced-Tin Lantern

In the early 1800s when John Jay and his family lived in Bedford House people used fire as their main source of light in the evening. Pierced-tin lanterns were popular and gave off just enough light at night for people to be able to see where they were going.

## **Materials:**

Newspaper or another table covering

Large can

Can opener

Pencil

Permanent marker

towel

Large nail

Old flat head screwdriver

Votive candle in glass container

Hammer

Adult help

## **Directions:**

1. Cover your workspace.
2. Remove the label from the can. Clean the inside. Note: one lid must remain on the can.
3. Use the scrap paper and pencil to plan out your design. Use dots and dashes since you will be piecing the can with those shapes. Remember, the more holes you make, the more light will shine through.
4. Copy the design onto the can with a pencil, then go over it with the permanent marker.
5. Fill the can with water and place it in the freezer overnight. The water should be frozen solid.
6. Remove the can from the freezer.
7. Place a towel on your work surface and place the can on it. With an adult's help, work carefully and quickly to hammer the nails or the screwdriver through the pattern on your can. Hammer just hard enough to pierce the metal cleanly.
8. When the piercing is finished, dump the ice into the sink.
9. Remove the remaining lid from the can.
10. Ask your adult helper to light the candle.
11. Carefully place your lantern over the candle. Turn off the other lights and enjoy the patterns created by your lantern.