



HOME FOR THE
Holidays

Yalda Night: Watermelon & Pomegranate Garland

Shab-e Yalda, or Yalda Night, is an Iranian holiday on December 21 that celebrates the arrival of winter, the sun's renewal, and the triumph of light over darkness. On Yalda Night, the longest night of the year, Iranians celebrate the birth of the goddess of light, Mithra. During this time families gather together and stay awake the whole night to welcome winter. While waiting to welcome it, the last remaining fruits of the summer are eaten, which are nuts, watermelons, and pomegranates. As well, some people believe that the pomegranate's spherical shape represents the sun and watermelon protects them from pain in winter. In this project, we will create our own watermelon and pomegranate garland using a bubble wrap painting technique to decorate for Yalda Night!

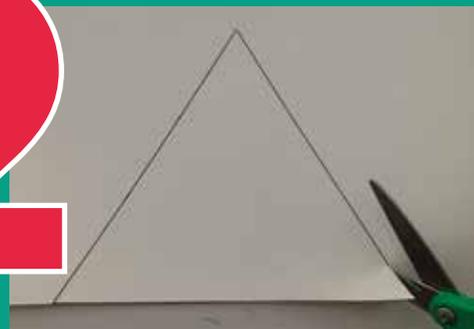
1



Gather materials:

- White Cardstock
- Scissors
- Pink Paint
- Black Paint
- Green Paint
- Red Paint
- Bubble Wrap
- Paint Brush
- Hole Puncher
- String / Yarn

2



Create a stencil of your watermelon by drawing a triangle shape on your cardstock and cutting it out.

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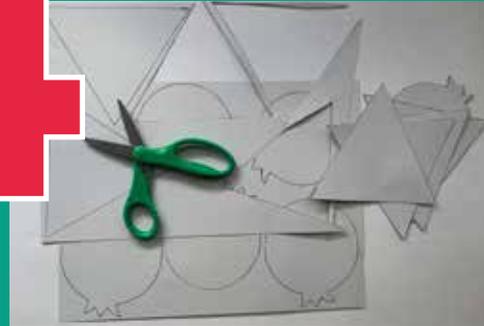


3



Create a stencil of your pomegranate by drawing a circle with some "hair" at the top on your cardstock and cutting it out.

4



Trace and cut out several watermelons and pomegranates to fill out your garland.

PRO-TIP:

Stack 2 or 3 sheets of cardstock to cut multiple shapes at the same time.

5



Grab one piece of bubble wrap large enough to cover your watermelon shape.

6



Paint your bubble wrap to resemble a watermelon, using pink for the middle and green for the edge.



7



Press your bubble wrap paint-side down on your watermelon-shaped cardstock. Continue doing this for all your watermelon shapes.

8



Use a fingertip or the back of your paintbrush to add black "seeds" with black paint on your watermelon shapes. Allow them to dry.

9



Take a new piece of bubble wrap large enough to cover your pomegranate shape.

10



Use red paint to cover your bubble wrap, and press paint-side down on your pomegranate shapes. Complete all your pomegranate shapes this way.



11



With your paintbrush, fill in the "hair" on your pomegranates with red paint. Allow all to dry.

2



Once all your shapes are dry, add two holes with your hole puncher to the green sides of your watermelons and two holes to the tops of your pomegranates.

3



Cut a long piece of string about 6 ft in length. String on your watermelon and pomegranate shapes, alternating them as you go. Make sure they are spread evenly along your string.

4



Hang your garland on the wall to decorate for Yalda Night!