



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Balloon Flowers

An extension of "Ping Lau's amazing world of dolls"

When you read "Ping Lau's amazing world of dolls" (page 16, *What's Up* January 2017), you will surely notice how much joy she gets when people love her dolls. You, too, can experience some joy by making something beautiful for someone during the Lunar New Year. Follow the steps below to make balloon flowers as gifts.

MATERIALS

1 green sculpting balloon and one balloon of any other colour for each flower
A balloon pump

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **PREPARE** for balloon sculpting by watching this video by BalloonAnimals:

➤ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yk3F2k8Y4Pw>

2. **MAKE THE BALLOON'S STEM**

- Inflate the green balloon all the way to the end. Let some air out to soften it a little. Tie a knot at the open nozzle end. Squeeze the balloon gently to distribute the air pressure equally.
- Fold the balloon into three equal parts like an e, hold it in the middle in your left hand. Twist it in the middle thrice using your right hand. This opens it up to give you leaves and stem.
- Bend one end of the stem slightly to create a kink in the stem. Later, when the flower petals are ready, do a basic one inch twist (thrice) at the tip of the kink to make a little ball. Work this ball through the centre of the petals and your flower will be ready.

3. **MAKE THE PETALS**

- Inflate the other balloon till about two inches from the end. Let some air out to soften it a little. Tie a knot at the open nozzle end. Squeeze the balloon gently to distribute the air pressure equally.
- Take a 4-inch segment of the balloon at the nozzle end, fold this segment into half, squeeze to soften, hold it in the right hand and twist this balloon segment at the knot to make a ring-like petal. Pass the knot through to the other side of the ring to secure the petal. This is called the fold squeeze twist.
- Take the next 4-inch segment of the balloon to make another fold squeeze twist petal. Try and make it the same size as the first petal. Repeat this step to make as many petals as possible.

4. **ASSEMBLE THE FLOWER** - Twist all the petals to form a flower. When you are done with the petals, join it to the stem. Make several balloon flowers and give them away to spread some good cheer!