



Make a lucky waving cat

The waving or beckoning Maneki Neko cat is popular in both Japanese and Chinese cultures as a symbol of good fortune. Why not celebrate Chinese New Year 2021 by making your own lucky cat?

What you need

- A4 white card
- A ruler
- A pencil
- Scissors
- Felt pens
- Gold paint or a gold pen
- Sticky tape
- A drinking straw
- A glue stick
- Red ribbon

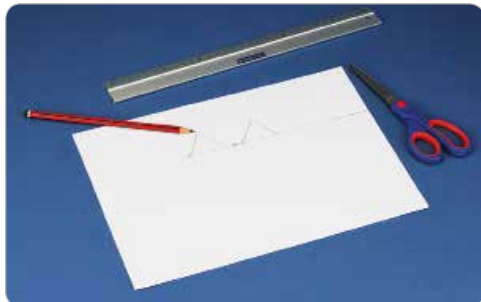


A traditional Maneki Neko.



You can make the cat wave.

COLOUR CAT
To add a different colour inside the body, cut a 6cm x 22cm strip of red or gold card then curl it inside the tube so it fits above the straw.



1 To make the cat's body, draw a line across a piece of A4 card using a ruler and pencil. Draw it 14cm from the top then mark the middle point. Draw the ears with the top points 6cm apart.



2 Cut off the top, around the ears, and put the remaining card to one side. Then use felt pens to draw the cat's face, two paws for feet and an arm. Decorate the body in gold.



3 Get the card you cut off earlier. Cut a 2.5cm x 12cm strip from it, then fold it in half. Cut the open ends into curve shapes. Then draw a paw pattern and outline in felt pen.



4 Once the paint or pen ink is dry, curl the body so the ends overlap by 1cm then tape it into a tube shape. This will form the main body of your lucky waving cat.



5 Carefully make two holes with a pencil on opposite sides of the tube, about 6cm from the top edge. Push the straw so it goes through both holes.



6 Glue the folded paw onto the end of the straw. Trim the other to make it a bit shorter. Finish decorating the cat with a ribbon around the neck. Turn the straw to make the cat wave!

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