



Celebrate the Spring Equinox

About the Equinox:

The Vernal or Spring Equinox is the day that the Sun crosses the imaginary line in the sky above the Earth's equator, called the celestial equator, from south to north. In the Northern Hemisphere where we live, this is usually March 19, 20, or 21. This is the official start of spring!

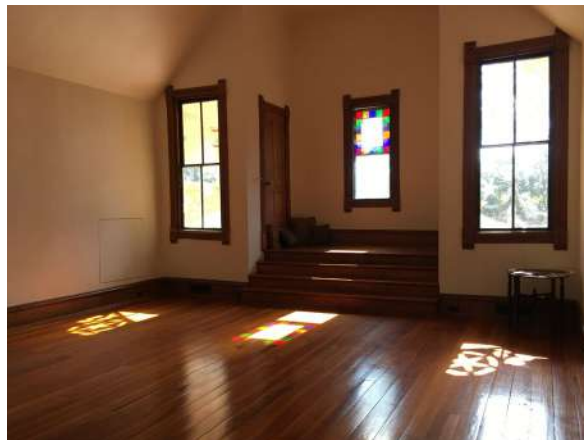
Learn more about the Spring Equinox: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9brBZjwzgml>
Lowell Observatory, "When is the Spring Equinox in 2020?"

About the Lapham-Patterson House

One of the more interesting effects of the design of the house occurs during the vernal and autumnal equinoxes. A bargeboard with cutout designs hangs from the roof.



Some people think, that the animal head shape in the center represents Mrs. O'Leary's cow, the mythic fire starter that kicked over a lantern in a barn that began the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 that is the supposed origin of Charles Lapham's fear of fire. Every year on the equinoxes, the sun shines through the cow head in such a way as to casts a shadow onto the floor third floor billiards room. The stars in each corner also shine onto the Third Floor creating a unique light show!



“Stained Glass” Window Hanger

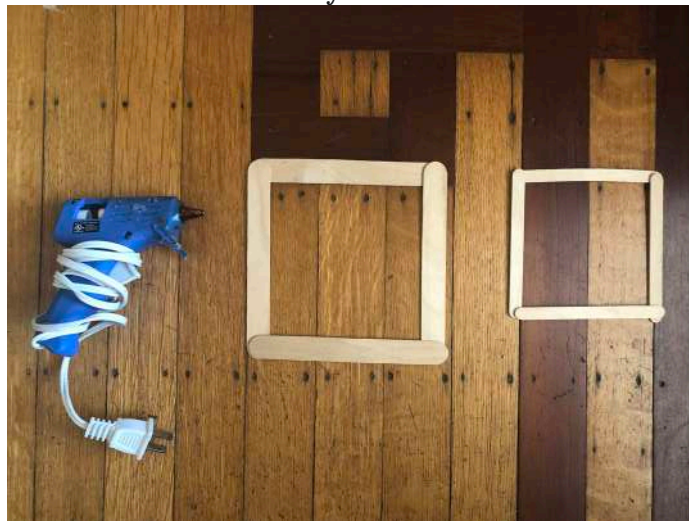
Supplies:

- 4 popsicle sticks (large or small will work)
- Ruler
- pencil
- Scissors
- Wax paper
- Hot glue
- Liquid glue (dries clear)
- Paintbrush
- Tissue paper
- Yarn or ribbon (optional)
- Markers (optional)



Instructions:

Step 1: With the help of a grown-up, glue 4 popsicle sticks together to form a square, this will be your window frame. Set aside to dry.



Step 2: With the help of a grown-up, cut a square of wax paper that fits inside the frame. Be sure it is big enough that the wax paper can be glued to the sticks using hot glue later. If it is a little too big, that's ok too! You can trim it once everything is put together.



Step 3: tear or cut tissue paper into pieces or shapes and arrange on the wax paper square. Pick up each piece and paint a light layer of glue on the wax paper its place. Lay your tissue paper on the glue and press gently. Don't worry if all the edges are glued down! After each piece is in glued in place, use your paintbrush to paint a light layer of glue over the whole thing to seal it all down. Set it aside to dry for a few minutes.



Step 4: with the help of a grown-up, use a hot glue gun to secure the wax paper to the frame. Once it is dry, trim off any extra wax paper and glue your (optional) yarn loop to a corner or a side. Optional: use markers to decorate your frame. Once that is dry, you're all done! Hang it on a window that catches the sun and enjoy the colors!

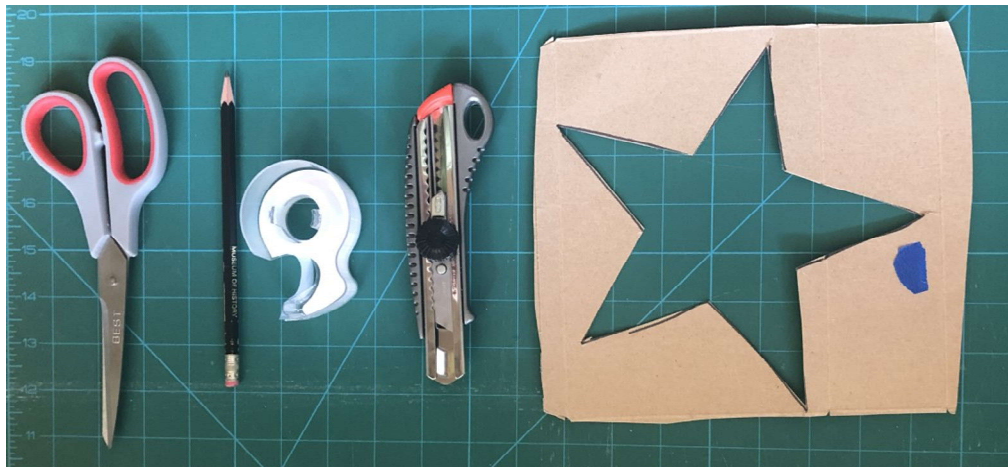


Playing with Light & Shadow



Supplies:

- Empty cereal or snack box (any lightweight cardboard will work)
- Printed shape outline, cut out
- box cutter (Adult supervision only)
- Cutting mat
- Scissors
- Tape



Step 1: Break down a cereal box and use scissors to cut one large side free from the package.

Step 2: Print a shape like a star and trace it or draw it freehand on the cardboard side (not glossy) of the cereal box.

Step 3: Use scissors or a box cutter and cutting mat (with adult supervision!) to cut out the shape. Try not to cut to the outside edges of the cardboard so the shape stays whole.

Step 4: Find a window or glass door that is getting full sunlight, tape your shape on glass and watch the shape's shadow move across the floor as the sun moves.

