

**Philippine Parols**  
**Mrs. Cathy Ann Maher**  
**Grade 4**

**Subject Area: Computer Technology, Social Studies, Art**

**Time Allotment: 2 – 40 minute periods**

**Overview: Students will explore how the holidays are celebrated in the Philippines. One tradition that is widely used is the parol – star shaped lanterns the illuminate during the holiday celebration. The parol has developed somewhat as an art form, using many other materials. One example was a parol made from recycled candy wrappers.**

**Software: Microsoft Word '97, Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator**

**Objectives:**

**The student will:**

- 1. Use telecommunications software for research on the Internet.**
- 2. Use application software to communicate an interpretation of a parol.**
- 3. Learn about the Philippine holiday traditions.**

**Setting the Stage:**

**Read a poem from *The Mailbox Magazine* , Dec.-Jan. 2000/2001 Issue,  
Primary:**

“The Philippines  
Christmas in the Philippines  
Is quite a pretty sight.  
Paper lanterns shaped like stars  
Brighten windows at night.  
Poinsettias in full bloom,  
Gifts, families, and food.  
Banjos playing Christmas songs  
Add to the festive mood.”

**Introductory Activity:**

**Internet:**

**Ask the students to define what a symbol is. Brainstorm examples of symbols together.**

**Open Internet Explorer or Netscape Communicator / Navigator:**

**(Teacher note: it is always a great idea to bookmark the site for your students ahead of time. Another practice I do is to download or cache the Internet web pages to the network or local hard drive – this is great especially if the Internet or the web site itself is down.)**

**<http://sim.soe.umich.edu/parol>**

**Tell the students that today we are going to explore a symbol that has great meaning to the Philippine people. It is a symbol of their faith and tradition as well as that it has become an art form. Its roots come from another symbol belonging to another country. Let's find out what the "parol" is all about.**

- 1. Have the students click on the book-marked web link.**
- 2. On the home page direct the students to click on the link "About Parol"**
- 3. Ask the students to read the first paragraph under "The Traditional Parol."**  
**What does lighting a parol symbolize for the Philippine people? (It is a shared expression of faith and hope.)**
- 4. Now direct the students to read the second paragraph.**  
**What materials are the traditional symbols made from? (bamboo sticks, crepe paper, traditional candle)**
- 5. "Let's look at the last paragraph: where can the roots of the parol be found? (the Mexican piñata)"**
- 6. "Let's read about other Philippine innovations: where is Boracay?"**  
**What was one kind of material one artist in Boracay used to create a parol? (Boracay is a small island off the northwest corner of the island Panay, Philippines. The material was colored plastic bags.)**

**Have the students look at the other picture examples of parols and ask them what they think were the materials used.**

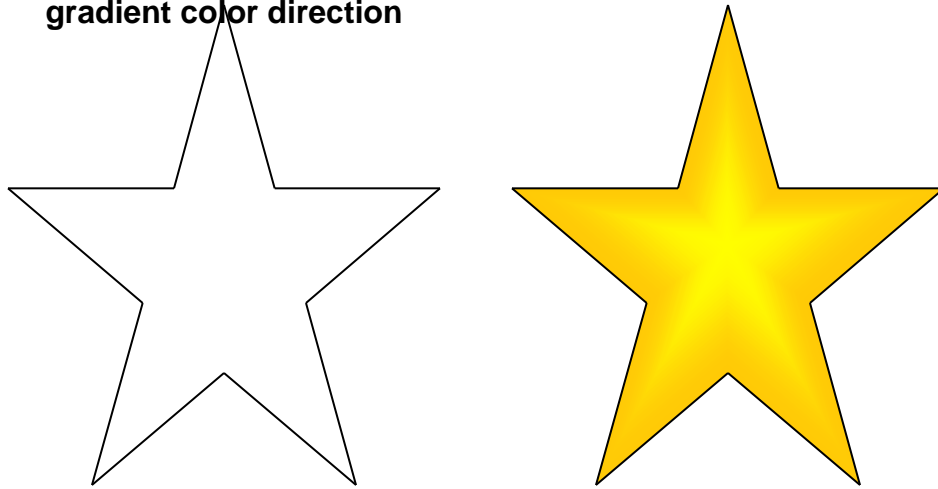
**Creative Activity:**

**Holiday Parols using Word Drawing Tools:**

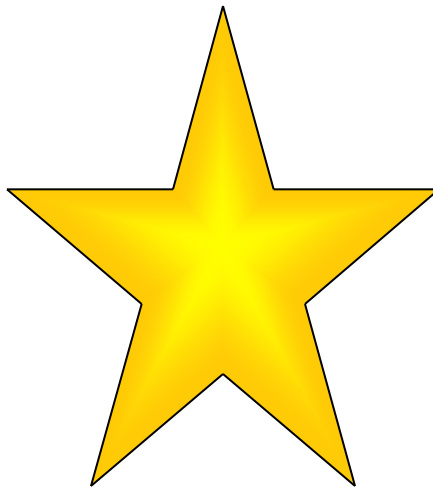
**Today we are going to create parols in Word using the drawing tools. We will use autoshapes, format color and properties, and insert clip art that will be converted and formatted to creatively represent a parol. When we are finished we will print these on transparency paper to symbolize the idea of light passing through the design – reminding us of the light of a candle that is used in a parol lantern.**

- 1. Direct students to open the Word program.**
- 2. Review the Menu Bar and Toolbars: Standard, Formatting, and Drawing.**
- 3. Steps to drawing a parol:**
  - a. click on "Autoshape" on the drawing toolbar, click on the "Stars and Banners", click on the star.**
  - b. Using the mouse (note the pointer looks like a plus sign), click where the insertion point is and drag the mouse to form a star approximately 4" by 3"**
  - c. Click on "Format" on the Menu Bar, click on "Autoshape," click on the "Colors and Lines" tab, click on "Fill" Color**

- d. Click on the “Gradient” and click on 2 colors – and select a gradient color direction

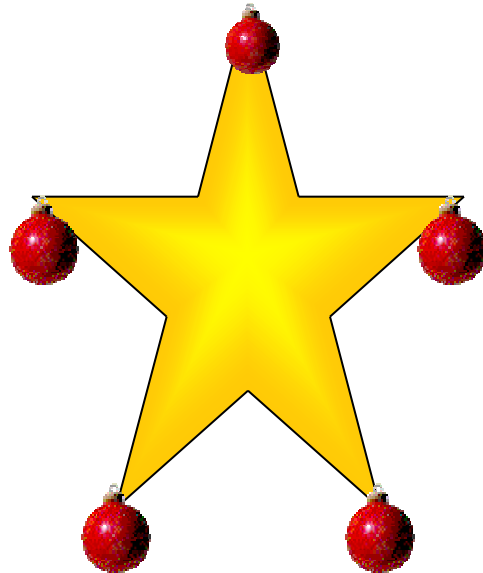


- e. To remove the check mark in the box, click on the box next to “Lock Anchor” to place a check in the box
- f. Click on the “Wrapping” tab, click none
- g. Click OK
- h. Ask the students to remember what kind of ornamentation did they see on the points of the stars.
- i. Instruct students to click on “Insert” on the Menu Bar, click on “Picture” and click on “Clip Art”
- j. To expedite what to insert, direct the students to click on the “Find” option on the Clip Art window
- k. Type in Ornament, click OK



- l. Select an ornament that you like. Click on “Insert”

- l. Keep the clip art selected. Now it must be formatted and converted into a Word object. First, click on “Format” on the Menu Bar, click on “Picture” – Under the “Position” tab, click on “Lock Anchor” to place a check mark in the box, and click on “Move Object with Text” to remove the check mark in the box. Click on “Wrapping” and click on “None”
- m. Click OK
- n. Keep the clip art ornament selected. Click on “Draw” on the “Drawing” toolbar, click on “Ungroup” and then click on “Group” – this will change this into a Word object – making it able to be rotated, etc. Now click on “Format” on the Menu Bar, click on “Object” – click on the “Position” tab, click on “Lock Anchor” to place a check mark in the box, and click on “Move Object with Text” to remove the check mark from the box. Click on the “Wrapping” tab, click “None”
- o. Click OK
- p. Keep the Word “Object” ornament selected, on the Menu Bar, click on “Edit” and click on “Copy” or on the “Standard” toolbar, click the “Copy” icon and then click on “Paste” under “Edit” on the Menu bar or click on the “Paste” icon on the “Standard” toolbar. Repeat this process until you have 5 ornaments. Now move them to the star points. Rotate each object as necessary. Depending on the type of ornament, you may need to flip the object, you will find that on the “Drawing” toolbar, under “Draw”



Direct students to save their work. These can be then printed on transparency paper. : )