

Happy Nowruz!

The word Nowruz (Novruz, Navruz, Nooruz, Nevruz, Nauryz), means new day; its spelling and pronunciation may vary by country.

Nowruz marks the first day of spring and is celebrated on the day of the astronomical vernal equinox, which usually occurs on 21 March. It is celebrated as the beginning of the new year by more than 300 million people all around the world and has been celebrated for over 3,000 years in the Balkans, the Black Sea Basin, the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East and other regions.

Although The traditions and customs that accompany the celebration of Nowruz vary from country to country, there are many unifying features. In most regions, symbolic preparations fire and water take place before the festival, and ritual dances involving leaping over fires and streams are performed.

It is also customary across most regions to visit cemeteries before the Nowruz celebrations begin, with visitors bringing candles and offerings to remember the dead. Two candles are commonly placed at the door to the house on Nowruz Eve in Kazakhstan.



Why a fish bowl?

It's unclear when the goldfish wiggled their way onto the Sofreh Haft Seen, the table of seven "S"s, the setting of which has been performed in Iran since at least Zoroastrian times. The table is a blueprint for the year ahead, with each item representing a desired quality like health, wealth, and love. Goldfish, signifying life, add a dramatic splash of color to the New Year table and are traditionally released into the wild after the celebration; however, they're unlikely to survive the transition. Lately, many are coming up with creative ways to replace the live goldfish, whether with a plastic toy, a drawing, or even an orange in a bowl.

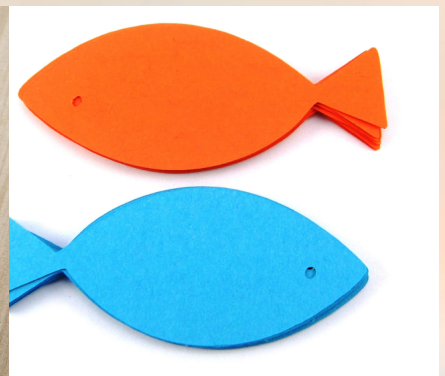
These fishbowl lamps tie in two aspects of Nowruz. The symbolic candles and the goldfish representing life.



Making your own fishbowl Lantern

Step 1: Prepare your tissue paper

Tear your water color tissue paper into strips and chunks. Then use a pencil and draw out your fish, seaweed and other aquarium aspects you want and cut them out.



Step 2: Glue

Use the mod podge to glue your tissue paper to the outside of your fish bowl. Start with your water layer and work your way up.





Making your own fishbowl Lantern

Step 3: Place glass rocks in the bottom of the bowl



Step 4: put your candle inside to light it up!

