Halloween Lantern Trail

A friendly indoor clue hunt with a complete route and handwritten replacements.

HOST ONLY - KEEP THESE PAGES AWAY FROM PLAYERS

Gather your supplies

You need paper, scissors and an adult host. Removable tape and a host-chosen final message, sticker or surprise are optional. A prize is not needed to finish.

Print and cut

Choose the US Letter edition for your paper and print at 100% / actual size. Pages 1-2 are host-only. Cut the six cards on page 3 and six on page 4 along their solid borders. Page 5 has four replacement cards and an optional blank finish card. No folding or glue.

Choose your spots

Read every clue and pick one specific, permitted object for each answer on page 2. Check the clock has hands and the basket has woven sides. Walk the route first. If an object is missing or a clue is unclear, write a replacement on page 5, update the host map and move its next card to match.

Hide the NEXT card

Keep card 1 to hand over. Row 1 tells you where to put card 2; continue in order. Row 11 sends card 12 to the basket. Write each actual spot and tick it after placing its card. Keep the map and unused cards away from players.

Keep the trail reachable

Use accessible open spots. No appliance, drawer or cupboard needs opening. No climbing, moving furniture or entering off-limits rooms is part of the trail. Keep clues away from hot, sharp or breakable objects. Tell players the allowed search area. Read aloud or give a hint when needed.

Start and finish

Hand over card 1. Players follow each clue, then bring card 12 back to the host and share a favourite clue. Use one shared trail, taking turns or searching together.

Choose a shorter trail

Use cards 1-5 plus finish card 12. Put 12 beside the mirror, where clue 5 leads. Keep cards 6-11 out of play. Page 2 gives the exact short placements.

Host placement map

Hand card 1 to players. Each row tells you where to hide its NEXT card.

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Clue	Answer / destination	Hide next card	Actual chosen spot	Placed
1	Chosen outdoor shoes	Put 2 at this answer		☐
2	Chosen books	Put 3 at this answer		☐
3	Chosen table	Put 4 at this answer		☐
4	Chosen seat cushion	Put 5 at this answer		☐
5	Reachable mirror	Put 6 at this answer		☐
6	Clock with hands; hide below	Put 7 at this answer		☐
7	Chosen hanging coat	Put 8 at this answer		☐
8	Chosen blanket	Put 9 at this answer		☐
9	Chosen pencil cup	Put 10 at this answer		☐
10	Chosen dry towel	Put 11 at this answer		☐
11	Reachable open woven basket	Put 12 at this answer		☐
12	Finish: return to host	No next card	Return to host	

Six-card short route: 1-5 plus 12

Hand 1 to player. Put 2 beside the shoes, put 3 beside the books, put 4 beside the table, put 5 beside the cushion, and put 12 beside the mirror. Remove cards 6-11 from play.

Missing cushion? Replace card 4

Write the replacement clue from page 5 on a blank card numbered 4. Record slippers in row 4 and put card 5 beside them. Card 4 stays at the table. All later placements stay the same.

Recheck after every change: clue wording, map answer and next-card placement must agree.

Lantern Trail clue cards

Cut solid borders. Give players only the cards in your chosen route.

Clue 1



Before you go outdoors, a pair waits for your feet. Look beside the pair you would wear.

Clue 2



Rows of covers keep stories quiet. Look beside a few favourite stories waiting to be read.

Clue 3



This flat top gives games or plates a place to sit. Look on or beside it for your next clue.

Clue 4



Small and soft, I make a seat more comfy. Look beside the soft helper you lean against.

Clue 5



I show a face without taking a picture. Find where you can see your own smile.

Clue 6



My hands go round, but they never clap. Look nearby to find out how the day is moving.

Lantern Trail clue cards

Cut solid borders. Give players only the cards in your chosen route.

Clue 7



An outdoor layer hangs here, waiting for its next outing. Look beside the hanging layer.

Clue 8



Folded or spread, I keep you cosy. Look beside the soft layer you snuggle under.

Clue 9



A little holder keeps drawing tools standing tall. Look beside it for the next clue.

Clue 10



After washing, I help hands get dry. Look beside the dry one waiting for you.

Clue 11



Woven sides hold a little collection. Look in or beside the open top to end the trail.

12 / FINISH



You found the final lantern! Bring this card back to your host and share your favourite clue.

Replacement cards

Cut the five solid-border cards. Keep the HOST ONLY worked example with your map.

Clue number: _____

Write your clue. Keep its answer on the host map.

Clue number: _____

Write your clue. Keep its answer on the host map.

Clue number: _____

Write your clue. Keep its answer on the host map.

Clue number: _____

Write your clue. Keep its answer on the host map.

FINISH

Write your closing message:

HOST ONLY - WORKED EXAMPLE

No cushion? Number a blank card 4. Write: "A cosy indoor pair waits for your feet. Look beside the pair you wear at home." Update row 4 to slippers and hide card 5 there. Card 4 stays at the table. Recheck the route.

Never write the destination answer on a player card front.

Keep custom clue numbers in order. Move the NEXT card to match its new answer, then walk your complete route before handing over card 1.