

Islamic Geometric Art

Designing your own geometric
pattern

Geometric tiles inspired by Islamic art

In this lesson we will be creating tile designs inspired by Islamic art. We will:

- Learn about Islamic art and a famous mosque.
- Learn about symmetry.
- Develop our understanding of geometry.
- Work with repeating patterns.
- Create our own geometric art inspired by Islamic tiles.

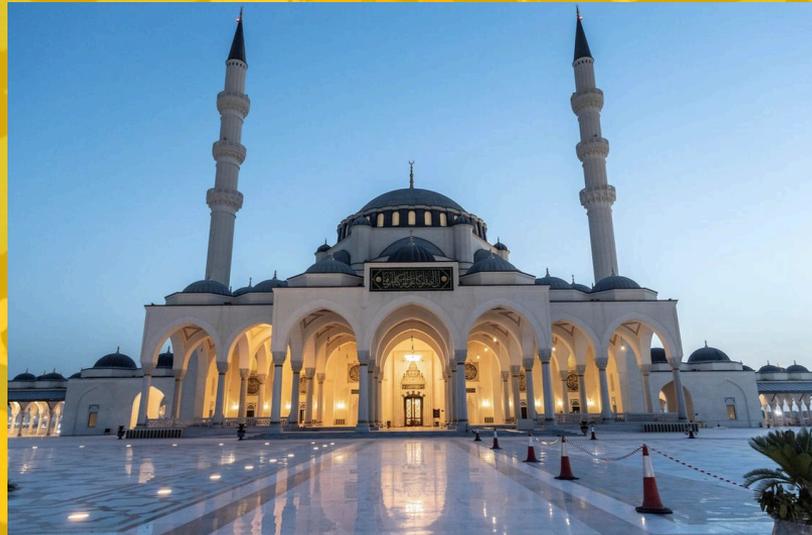
Geometrical Designs

Islamic art traditionally features geometric designs, using shapes such as squares, rectangles, triangles and circles. It also includes many repeating patterns. Traditional colours that are often seen in Islamic designs include shades of blue and gold.



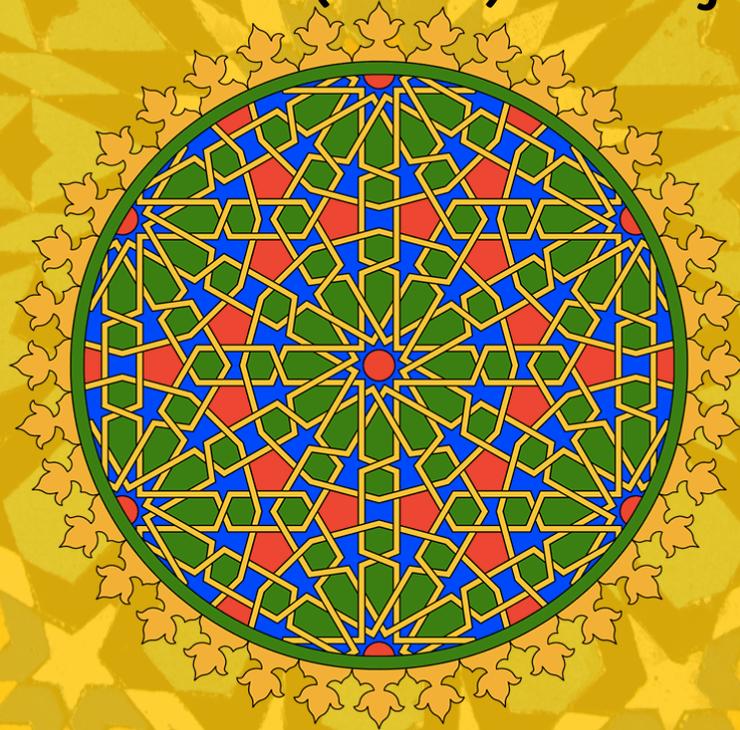
Mosques

A Mosque is a Muslim place of worship, and you will often see geometric art included in their design, with carpets, rugs and tiled walls featuring symmetrical shapes and repeating patterns.



Circles

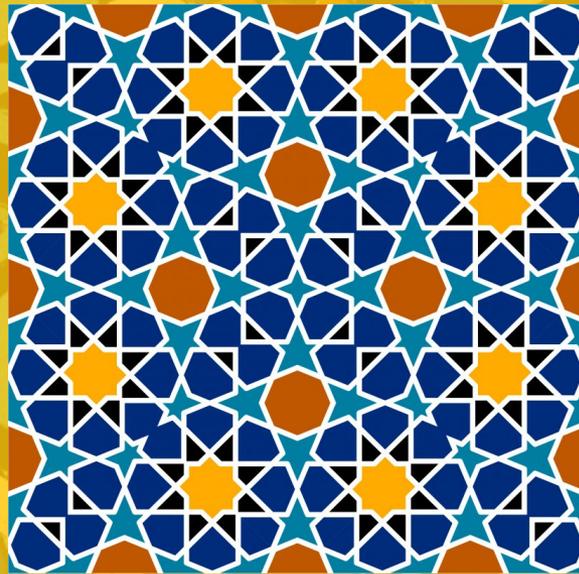
Circles are used as they are never ending to represent how Allah (God) is infinite.



Repeating patterns

Repeating patterns show how one small element is part of a whole universe.

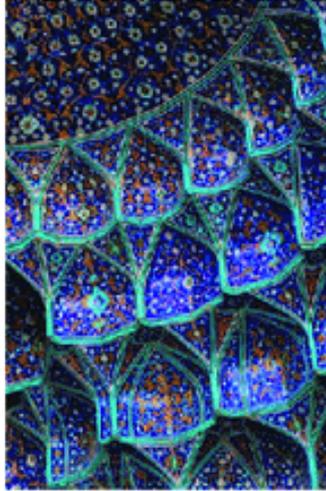
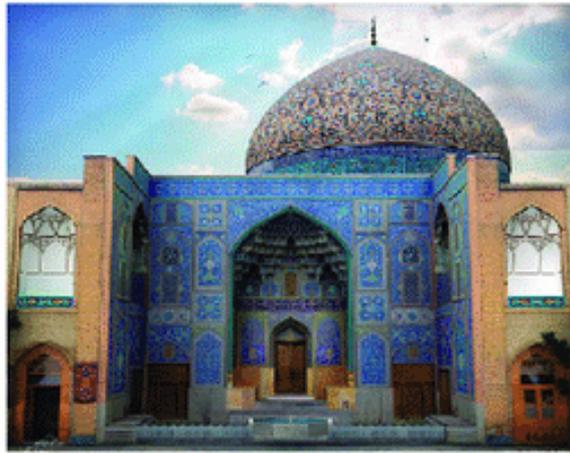
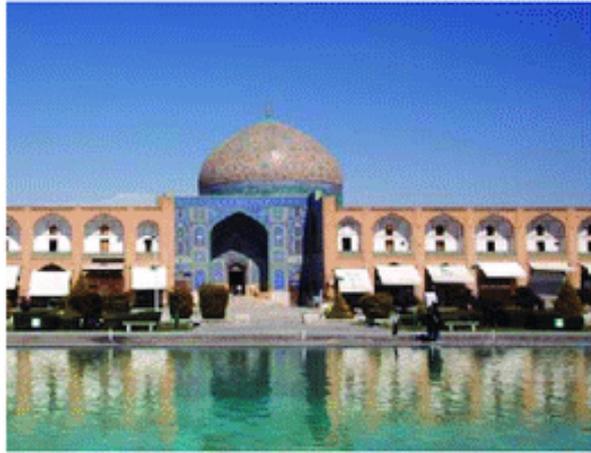
One tiny triangle is part of a huge pattern, just as one person is part of the universe, all created by God.

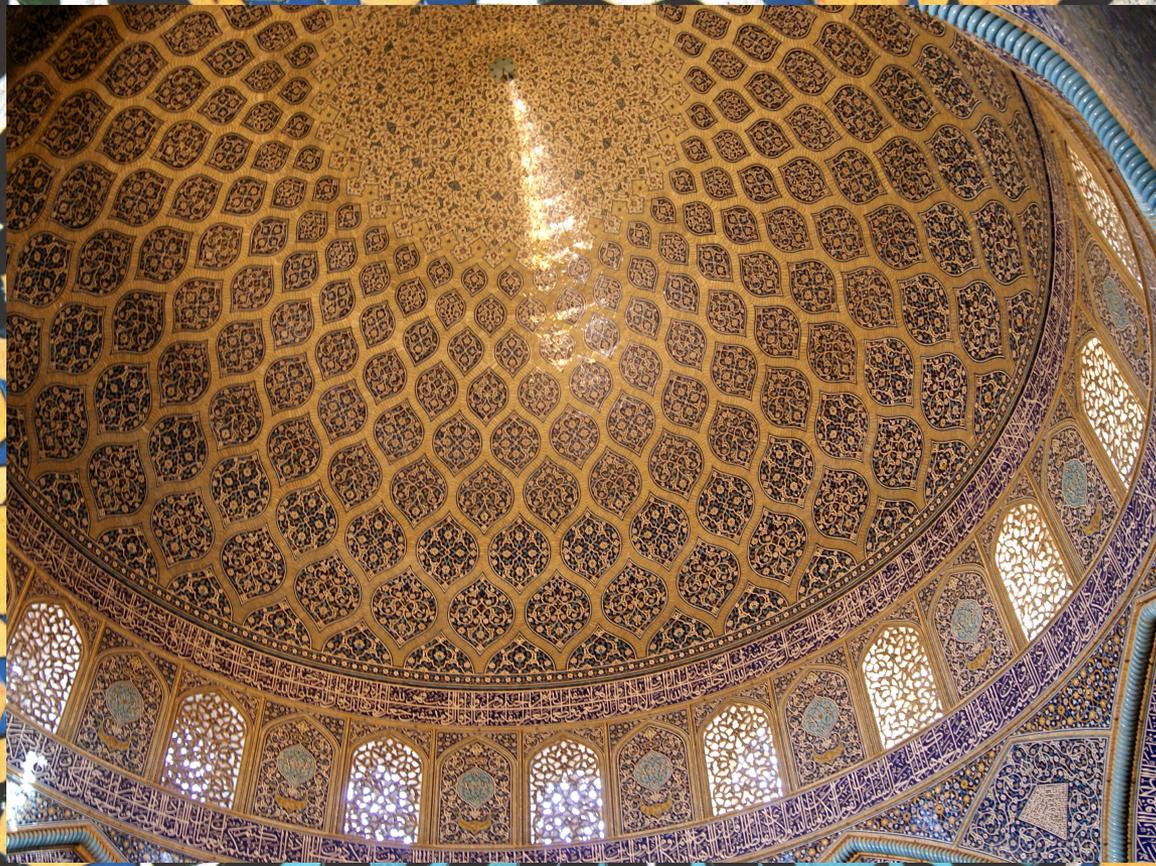


Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque

The Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque in Iran is one of the most famous mosques in the world. It was built between 1603 and 1619.

Compared to many other mosques the shape of the mosque is fairly simple but it is filled with the most beautiful, complex decoration, both inside and outside.





The Peacock

One special feature is the peacock that can be seen at certain times of the day. The sun's rays flood in to create the image of a peacock's feathers.

Symmetry

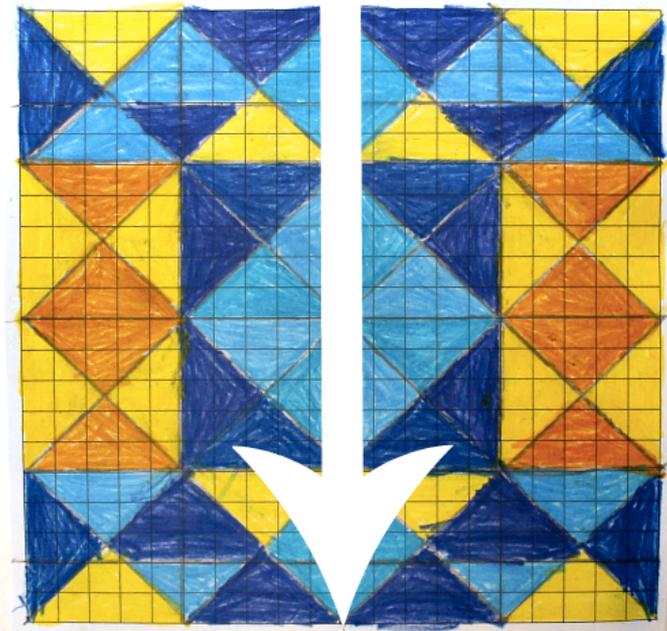
Symmetry is a balance between different parts of something. People, animals and plants are symmetrical in many ways.



Linear Symmetry

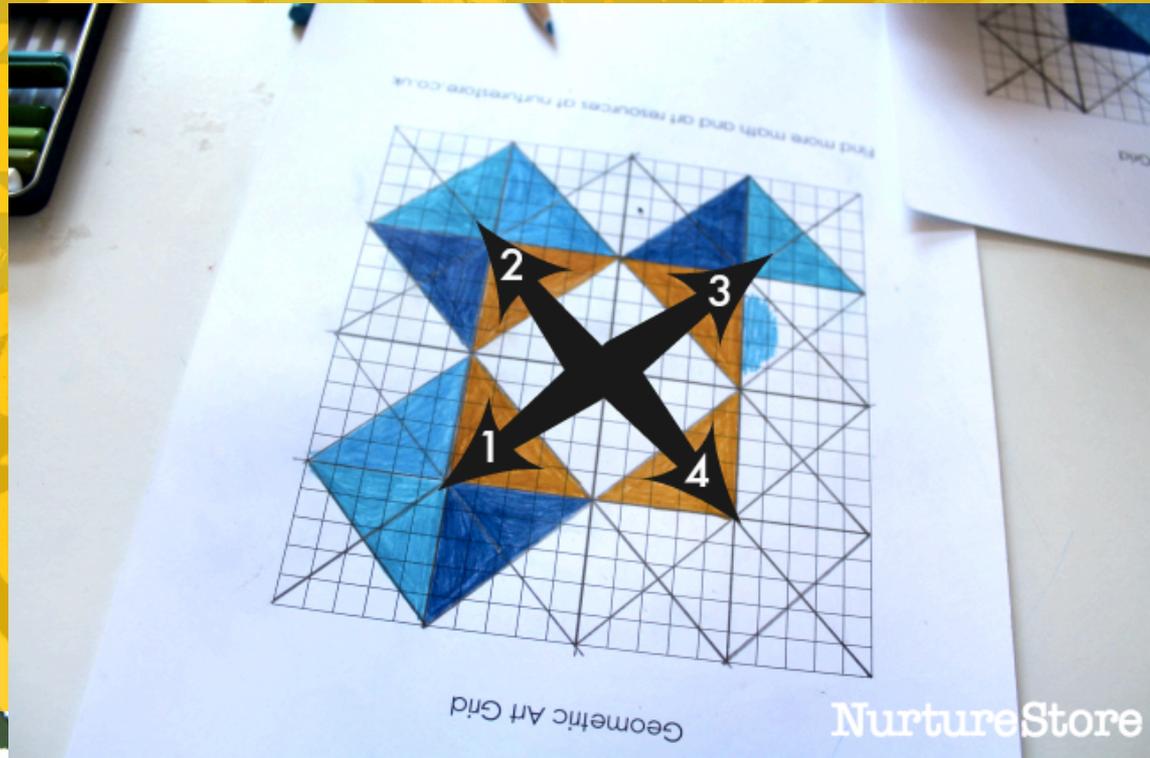
Imagine a line drawn down the middle of this geometric design. Are the two sides balanced? Are they symmetrical?

This kind of symmetry, along a line, is called linear symmetry.



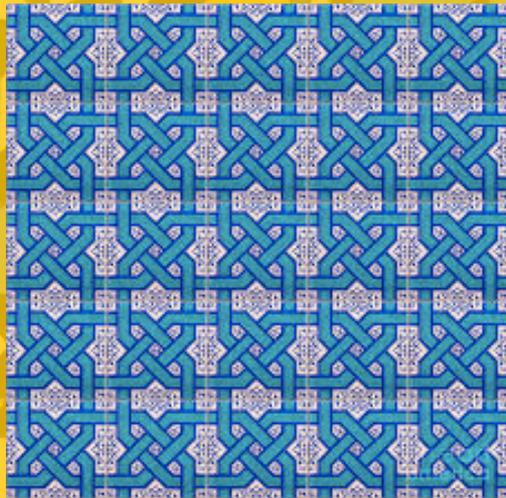
Radial Symmetry

Radial symmetry is around a central point. This design shows radial symmetry.



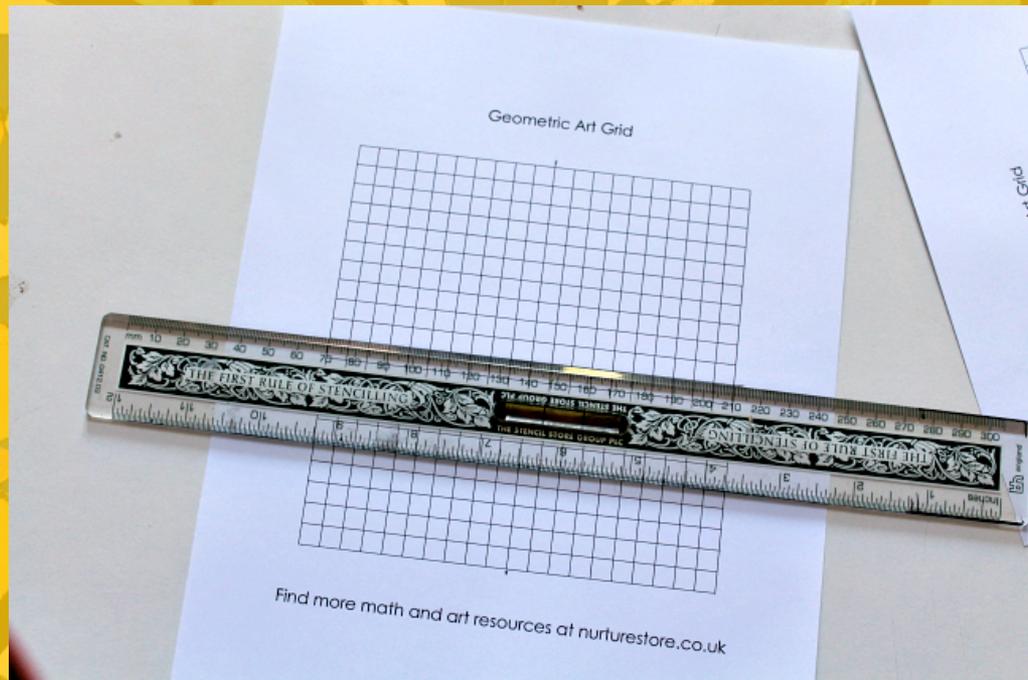
Today's Task

Create your own piece of geometrical art inspired by Islamic tiles.



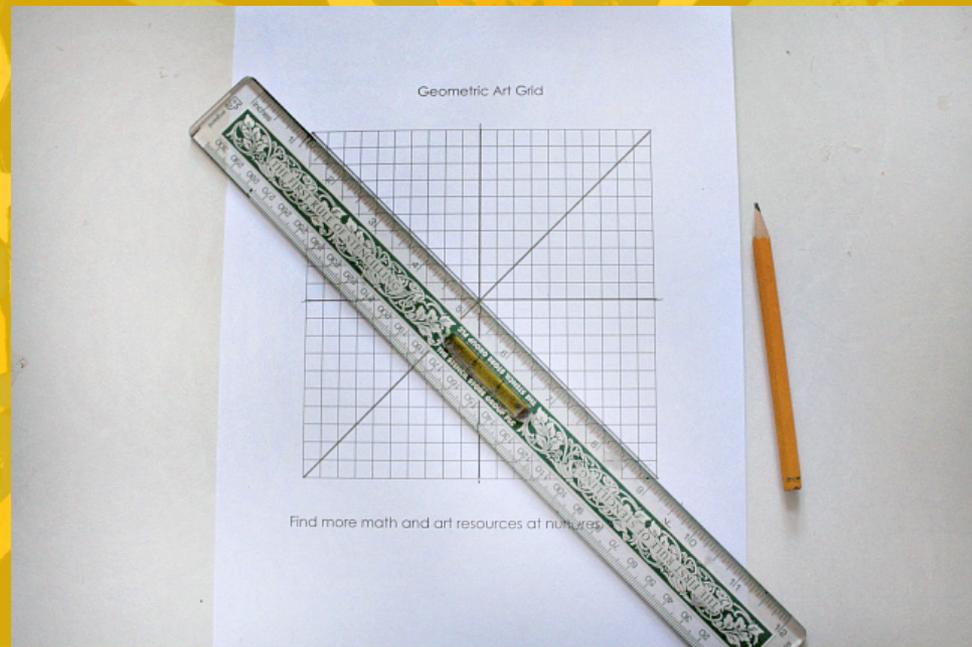
Step 1

Find the centre of your square by drawing a line across the middle and down the middle.



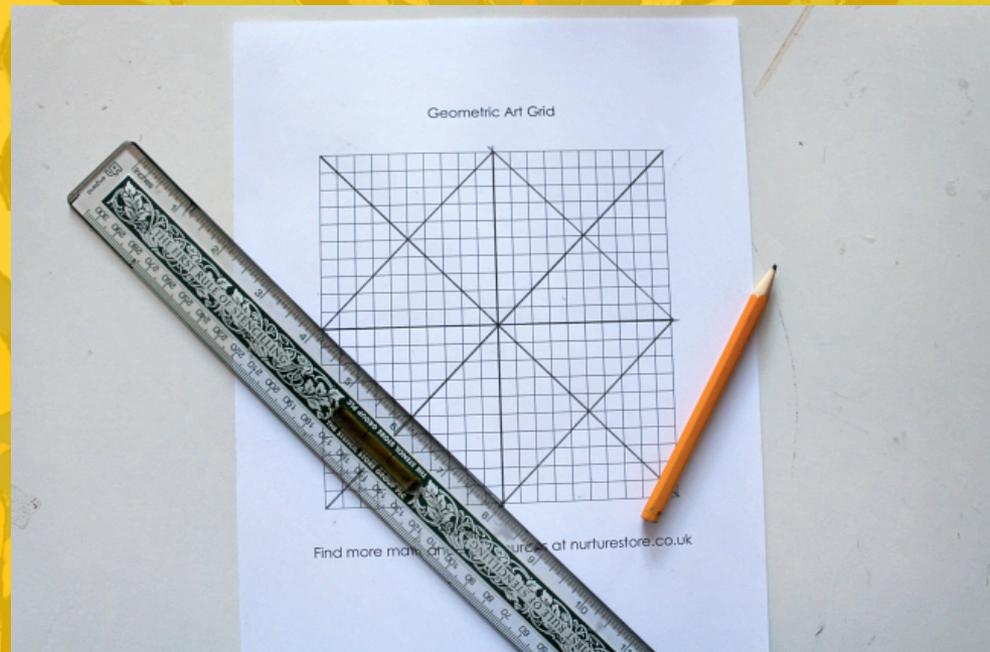
Step 2

Draw diagonal lines from corner to corner. They should both pass through the centre point of your design. What shapes can you see in your design?



Step 3

Add extra lines on your paper to create your design. Try and keep it symmetrical.



Step 4

Once you are happy with your design you can add some colour!

