



A Collaborative project by Canadian artist Esther Bryan

The Quilt of Belonging

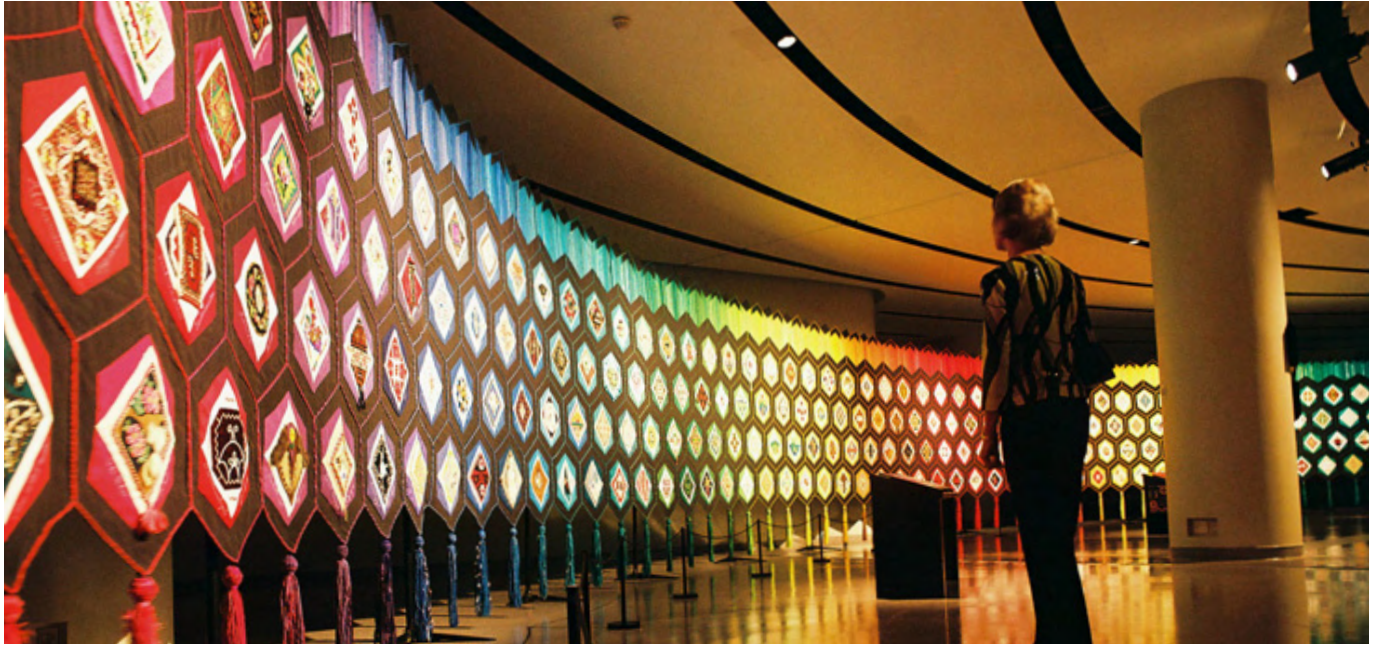


Image- WikimediaCommons File:Quilt of Belonging



grades 1 - 8
Bundle

The Quilt of Belonging

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Learning Standards

Learning Standards describe what students should know, be able to do, and understand by the end of each grade. Learning standards frame the important competencies/expectations and big ideas for each grade. Lessons in this bundle address the following standards:

VISUAL ARTS

- Apply the creative process to produce works of art using the elements, principles and techniques of visual arts to communicate feelings, ideas, and understandings.
- Use the critical analysis process to describe, interpret and respond to works of art.

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Listen to understand and respond appropriately.
- Use speaking skills and strategies appropriately to communicate.
- Read and demonstrate an understanding of texts.
- Write for an intended purpose.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Develop an understanding of cultural and national identities and how they contribute to Canadian heritage.
- Develop a sense of personal identity.

GEOMETRY

- Apply geometric properties and spatial relationships.

The Quilt of Belonging

The Quilt of Belonging is a textile project that represents and celebrates the diversity of Canadians. **Esther Bryan** was a visual artist who believed that Canada was a richer country because of the many immigrants who came, and continue to come to the country from all over the world. She believed that everyone has something of value to offer. She had an idea to create a giant quilt to acknowledge the many people who have worked to make Canada a great nation. Little did she realize how big the quilt would become.

There are 263 blocks in the quilt representing the major Indigenous groups in Canada as well as every nation in the world. Each block was created by a Canadian who has a connection to one of those nations or groups.

Use this wonderful collaborative project to inspire your students to create their own quilt of belonging. The ideas for creating paper quilt blocks found in this bundle provide a variety of ways for your students to create artworks that represent their personal identity, and/or their cultural connections.

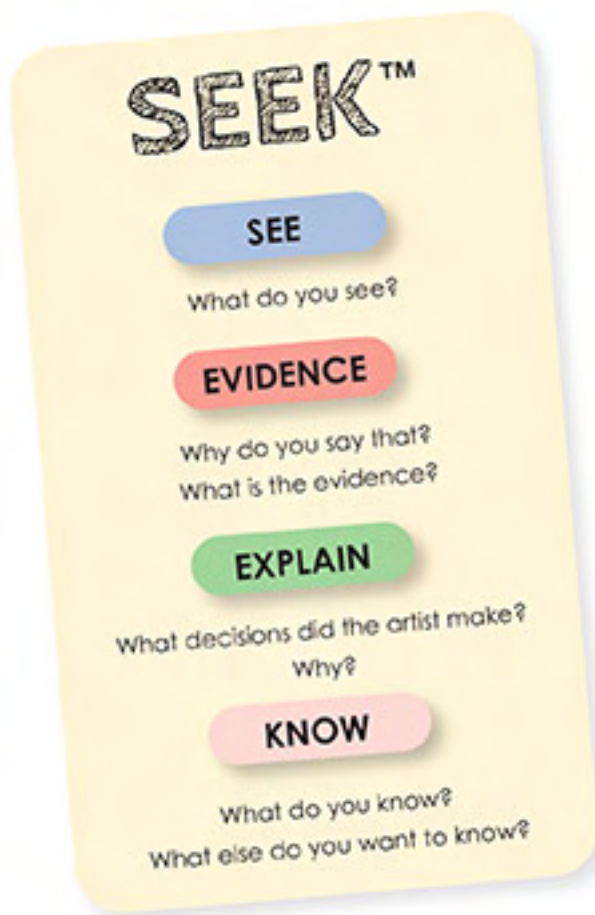
Learn more about the project at the following links:

Quilt of Belonging Website - View individual blocks in the 'The Quilt' section of the site.

CBC News - The fabric of the nation

The Quilt of Belonging - A Canadian Quilt Project - 5 minutes

The Quilt of Belonging - A Place For All Documentary - 47 minutes



Looking At Art

As students view and respond to the quilt blocks in the Quilt of Belonging have them use **SEEK™** to help organize their thinking and build their observational skills.

Guide them to support their ideas with evidence they see in the artwork.

SEE – Look closely at the image for about a minute. What do you see?

EVIDENCE – What do you see that makes you say that?

EXPLAIN – What choices did the artist make? How did those choices help communicate the message?

KNOW – What do you know about the artist's intent? What else do you want to know?

The Quilt of Belonging - A Canadian Quilt Project

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

View the video - **The Quilt of Belonging - A Canadian Quilt Project** and answer the following questions.

1. Who was Esther Bryan? (She died in 2022.)

2. What is the Quilt of Belonging project?

3. How long did it take to complete the project?

4. The quilt has 4 rows of quilt blocks. Who is represented in the top row? Why?

5. Who is represented in the 3 bottom rows? Why?

6. Why did Esther Bryan choose the hexagon shape for the quilt?

7. The blocks are made of many different materials. Name 3.

8. Visit the Quilt of Belonging [website](#) and view the pictures of the quilt.

9. What is your first impression of the quilt? What do you see that makes you say that?

10. The quilt is meant to show how we all belong. What things in your life make you feel like you belong?

11. What choices did the artist, Esther Bryan make? How did those choices help communicate her message?

12. What is one thing that stands out in your mind about the quilt? Why?

The Quilt of Belonging - A Canadian Quilt Project

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

View the video - [The Quilt of Belonging - A Canadian Quilt Project](#)

1. Who was Esther Bryan? (She died in 2022.)

She was the artist who came up with the idea to make the quilt, and the coordinator of the project.

2. What is the Quilt of Belonging project?

It's a 120' long, 10.5' high quilt that was made by people all across Canada representing every nation in the world. It is meant to show that there is a place for everyone, and encourages people to learn about each other and to live in peace.

3. How long did it take to complete the project?

6 years

4. The quilt has 4 rows of quilt blocks. Who is represented in the top row? Why?

The First Nations, Inuit and Métis, because they were the founding nations in Canada.

5. Who is represented in the 3 bottom rows? Why?

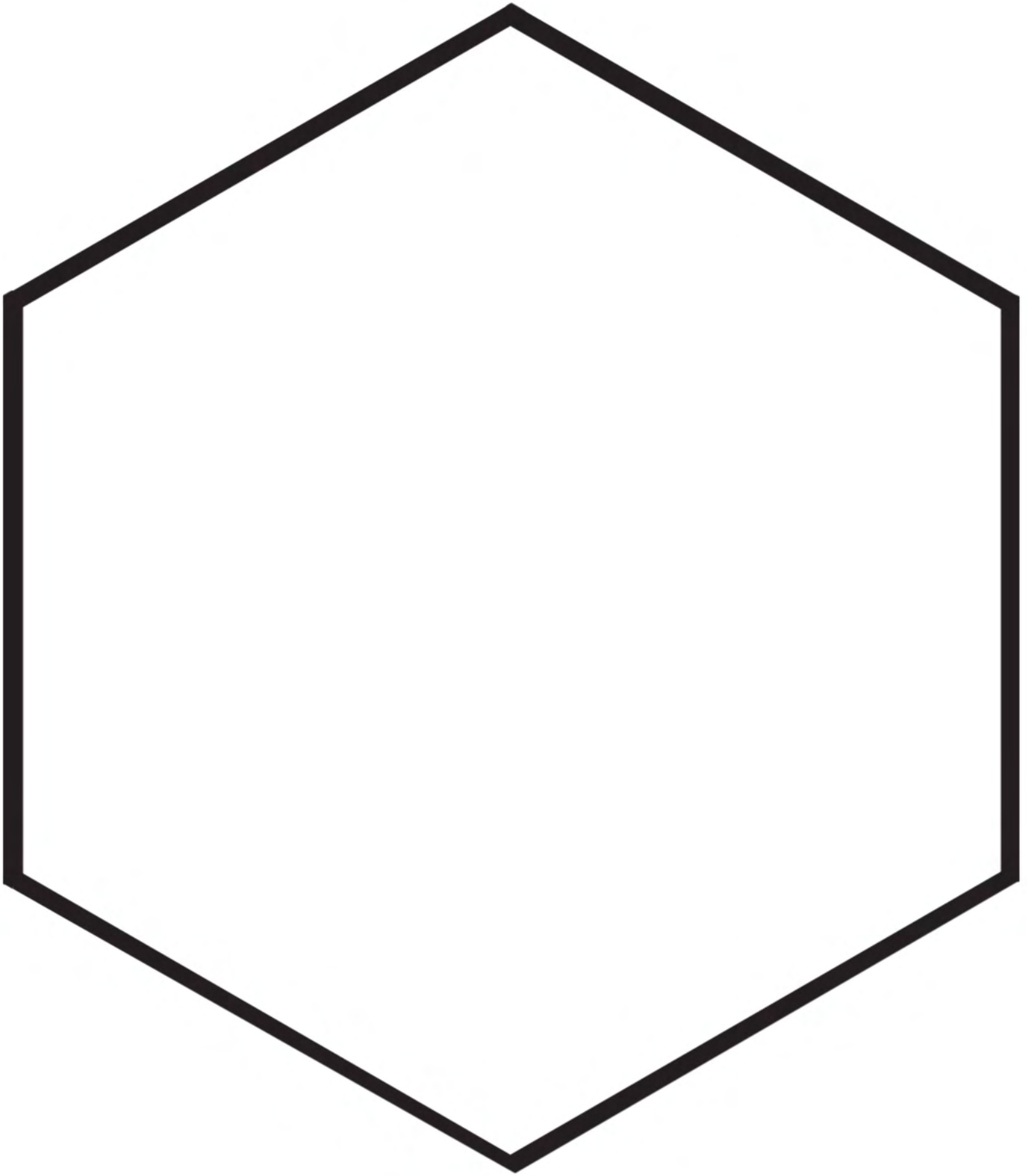
All the countries of the world, because in Canada there is at least one person from every country in the world.

6. Why did she choose the hexagon shape for the quilt?

It is the symbol for the carbon molecule in chemistry (part of all living things), and the beehive is made of hexagonal cells placed together forming the strongest structure in nature. The shape symbolizes the strength of Canada where people can keep their identity and still be connected to form something that works and is beautiful.

7. The blocks are made of many different materials. Name 3.

Butterfly wings, sealskin, miniature carpets, wood carving



Creating a Class Quilt

Esther Bryan was a Canadian artist who had a big idea. She wanted to create an artwork that would celebrate Canada's 'family tree'. It would begin with the Indigenous peoples and include the many people who have come to Canada in the past and present. People who have contributed to making Canada a great nation. A quilt seemed like the perfect thing and her big idea got bigger and bigger. She ended up working with people all over Canada on the collaborative project. The finished quilt at 36 metres long and 3.5 meters high is the largest textile art made about Canada to date. That's about as high as a yellow school bus and almost as long as 2 school buses parked end to end! Learn more about the Quilt of Belonging at the [Quilt of Belonging Website](#).



CREATE a quilt block that represents some aspect of your cultural identity. What images are considered to be symbols of that culture? OR Create a self-portrait quilt block.

Create your design on a hexagonal shape.

Use a technique that suits your purpose.

View several quilt blocks from the Quilt of Belonging before you begin. What can you learn from them?



PRESENT your quilt block to the class. Share what you learned about quilt blocks from the samples you viewed in the Quilt of Belonging, and how you applied that knowledge to your own work. Explain how you made your choice of design and techniques. Explain how your design represents you and your culture.



RESPOND to your classmate's quilt blocks. Describe the details in the block that you think are especially well done and explain why. What did you learn from your peers by viewing their work? What do you like best about the quilt blocks? What suggestions do you have?



CONNECT the individual blocks by placing them beside each other to form a large class quilt. Work together to find the best arrangement. Stand back and view the quilt with fresh eyes. What do you notice about the designs. How does the quilt make you feel about yourself and the others in your class? How are you all connected? How is your class quilt like the Quilt of Belonging? How is it different?

Quilted Frame

You will need:

- Crayola Fine Line Markers
- Crayola Construction Paper
- Crayola Watercolour Paints
- Crayola Marker & Watercolour Paper 7.6 cm x 7.6 cm (3" x 3")
- 4 per student
- Crayola Crayons - Regular
- Crayola Scissors
- Crayola Paint Brushes
- Crayola Washable Glue Sticks
- Water Containers
- Paper Towels

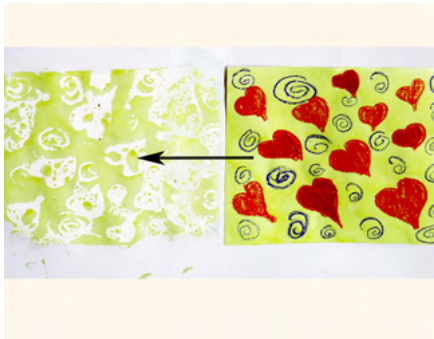


1



1. Use crayons to draw a design on one of your small squares of paper.
2. Leave some of the paper white.
3. Press hard with the crayon.
4. Paint watercolour over the design.

2



1. Before the paint dries, place the square face down on a larger piece of paper.
2. Rub it gently with the palm of your hand.
3. Remove the small square to see your monoprint.

3



1. Repeat with each of the remaining small squares.
2. Make 8 squares of decorated paper.

Quilted Frame

Esther Bryan chose the **hexagon** shape because it is the symbol for the carbon molecule in chemistry. Carbon is part of all living things. Bees make the strongest structure in nature by forming hexagonal cells placed together. Bryan wanted to create a quilt that would symbolize Canada. A country where people can keep their identity and still be connected, working to create something that is strong and beautiful. The hexagon symbolizes the strength and beauty that is Canada.

4



1. Choose the papers you want to use for your quilt.
2. Design a quilt block using geometric shapes.
3. Arrange the shapes on a piece of construction paper.
4. Once you are satisfied with the arrangement glue the shapes into place.

5



1. Use a fine line marker to make small stitch marks around the edges of each shape.

6



1. Cut the quilt paper into long strips about 5 cm x 22.6 cm (2" x 9").
2. When you have completed your quilt block glue the quilt strips around the outer edges of the hexagon shape (on the back of the paper) to create a frame. Half of each strip should be hidden by your block, and the other half should frame your design.

Cultural Symbolism

You will need:

- Crayola Construction Paper
- Crayola Crayons
- Crayola Washable No-Run Glue



1



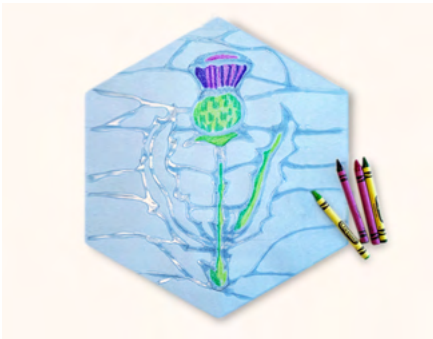
1. Cultural symbols are found in countries all around the world. They represent something that people in that country feel is important about the country, or part of the country. What images or symbols represent the country you are connected to?
2. Use the template to cut your construction paper into a hexagon.
3. Lightly draw your symbol on the construction paper.
4. Break up the space so it is almost like a stained glass window.

2



1. Draw over the lines using Crayola Washable No-Run Glue.
2. Set the glue drawing aside to dry overnight. The glue will dry clear so the lines will be the colour of the paper you use.

3



1. Use Crayola crayons to colour the glue drawing.
2. Press hard with the crayons to get lots of contrast.
3. Blend colours together by colouring one over the other.
4. Rub the crayon softly with a tissue to make it shine.
5. Glue the quilt strips around the outer edges of the hexagon shape (on the back of the paper) to create a frame. Half of each strip should be hidden by your block, and the other half should frame your design.

Self-Portrait

You will need:

- Crayola Oil Pastels
- Crayola Construction Paper - Black
- Crayola Scissors
- Crayola Sketchbook
- Crayola Glue Sticks

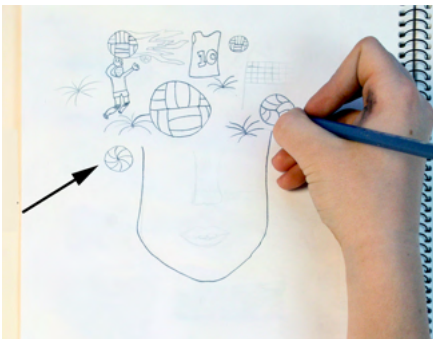


1



1. Cut out pictures of mouths, noses and eyes from magazines.
2. Glue the pictures into your sketchbook.
3. Leave space beside each picture to make a drawing of it.
4. Use oil pastels to practise drawing the features.

2



1. Make a plan drawing in your sketchbook.
2. Draw the outline of the bottom half of your face, the nose and mouth in the centre of the paper.
3. Include images that highlight things that are important to you in the top part of the paper.

3



Mona Lisa.- Leonardo da Vinci, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

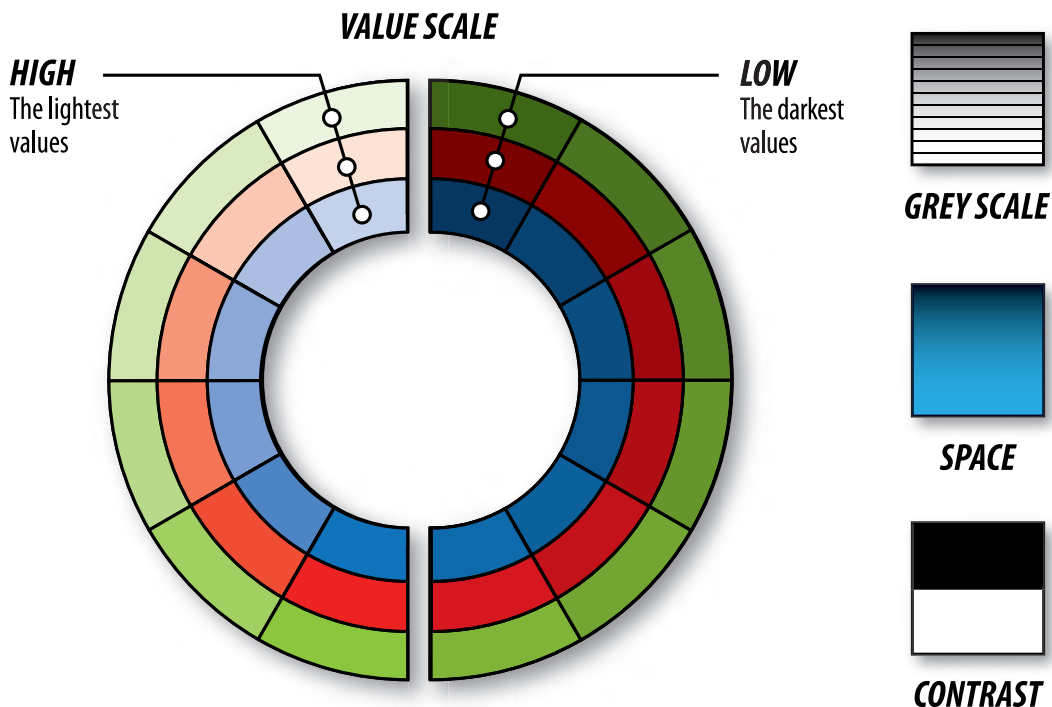
1. View the image of Mona Lisa.
2. Notice how shading gives the illusion of depth.
 - **Shadows** - the darkest areas on a surface created when the light is blocked by something
 - **Midtones** - the areas on a surface that are midway between the highlight and the shadow
 - **Highlights** - the brightest areas on a surface created when the light is reflected off the surface
3. Use shading in your drawing.

A dark blue, textured hexagonal object, possibly a piece of wood or stone, is shown against a light beige background. On the front face of the hexagon, there is a simple line drawing of a face in a light blue or white color. The drawing consists of a U-shaped outline for the jaw, a vertical line for the nose, and a simple line for the mouth. The object is oriented with one of its hexagonal faces towards the viewer.

A colorful, stylized illustration of a woman's face, likely a volleyball player, with various sports-related symbols and fireworks around it. The face is blue-toned with large, expressive eyes and a wide smile. Surrounding the face are several volleyball balls, some with the number '10' on them, and a large, stylized flame or fire element. There are also fireworks or starburst patterns scattered around the face. The entire illustration is set within a hexagonal frame.

Value

Lightness or darkness in colour or an artwork



VALUE SCALE

A way to show a range of values by placing different shades of grey (or a colour) in stages starting with the lightest and progressing to the darkest.

SPACE

Lighter values appear closer to the viewer, darker values appear farther away.

CONTRAST

The greater the contrast between lights and darks the more visible and dynamic an object appears.

HIGH KEY

Artworks with mostly light values. They tend to create a happy mood.

LOW KEY

Artworks with mostly middle to low values. They tend to create a serious mood.



HIGH KEY



LOW KEY



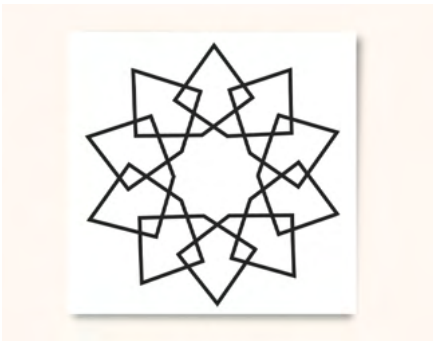
Islamic Design

You will need:

- Crayola Coloured Pencils
- Crayola Scissors
- Crayola Glue Sticks
- Crayola Marker & Watercolour Paper
- Crayola Watercolour Paints
- Crayola Paint Brushes
- Salt
- Paper Towels and Water Containers



1



1. Follow the instructions to create an interlaced, 10-pointed star.
2. Use coloured pencils to colour your design.
3. Cut out the star and set it aside.

2



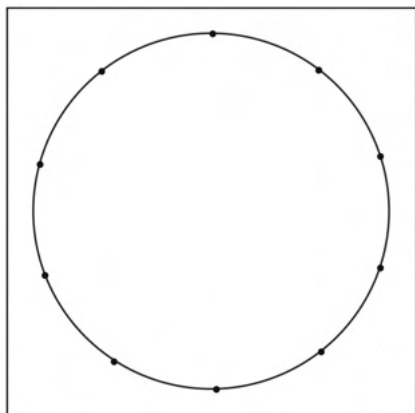
1. Create a background for your star design.
2. Paint a piece of watercolour paper with clear water.
3. Brush watercolour paints in colours that will complement your star design.
3. Allow the paints to flow into each other naturally and fill the space.
4. Add salt to your painting while the paint is still wet to change the way the paints appear.

3

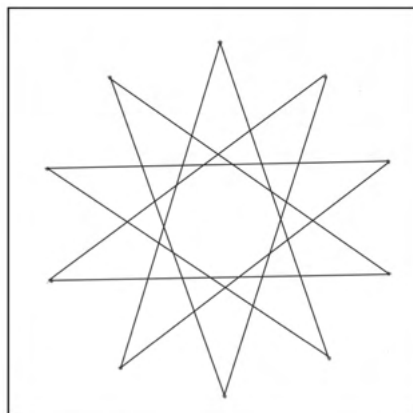


1. When your watercolour painting is dry cut it into the shape of a hexagon.
2. Glue your star design to it.
3. Glue the quilt strips around the outer edges of the hexagon shape (on the back of the paper) to create a frame. Half of each strip should be hidden by your block, and the other half should frame your design.

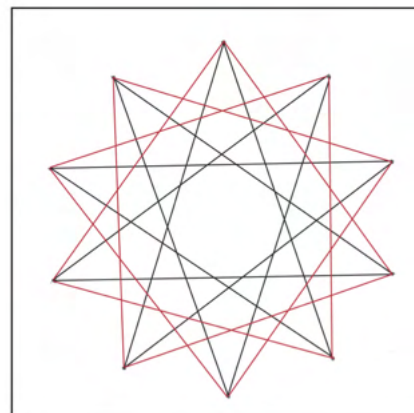
Islamic Design



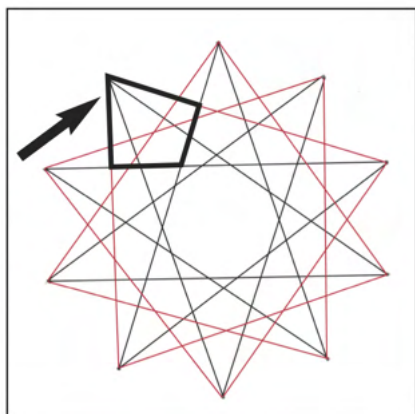
1. Draw a circle and divide it into 10 equal sections. Or use the template provided.



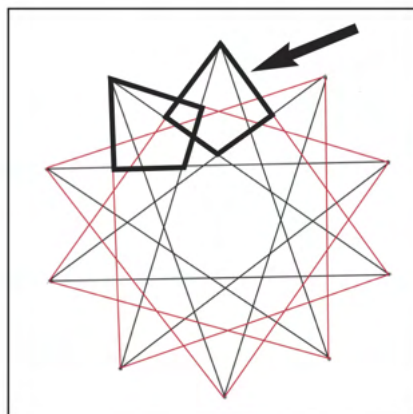
2. Use a pencil to lightly connect the dots in the following way:
 - start at a dot
 - count to the 4th dot
 - draw a line from the starting dot to that dot
 - repeat this for every dot
 - it should be a 10 pointed star



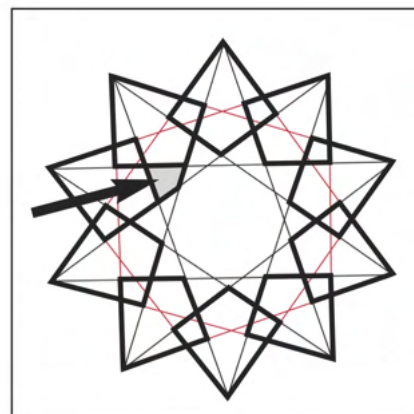
3. Use a pencil to lightly connect the dots in the following way:
 - start at a dot
 - count to the 3rd dot
 - draw a line from the starting dot to that dot
 - repeat this for every dot



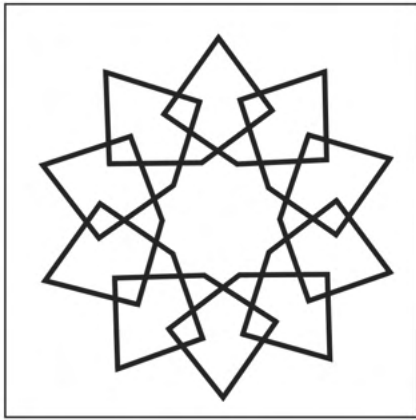
4. Look for this polygon. Outline it.



5. Find the same polygon all the way around the decagram grid. There should be 10 altogether. They overlap. Outline them all.



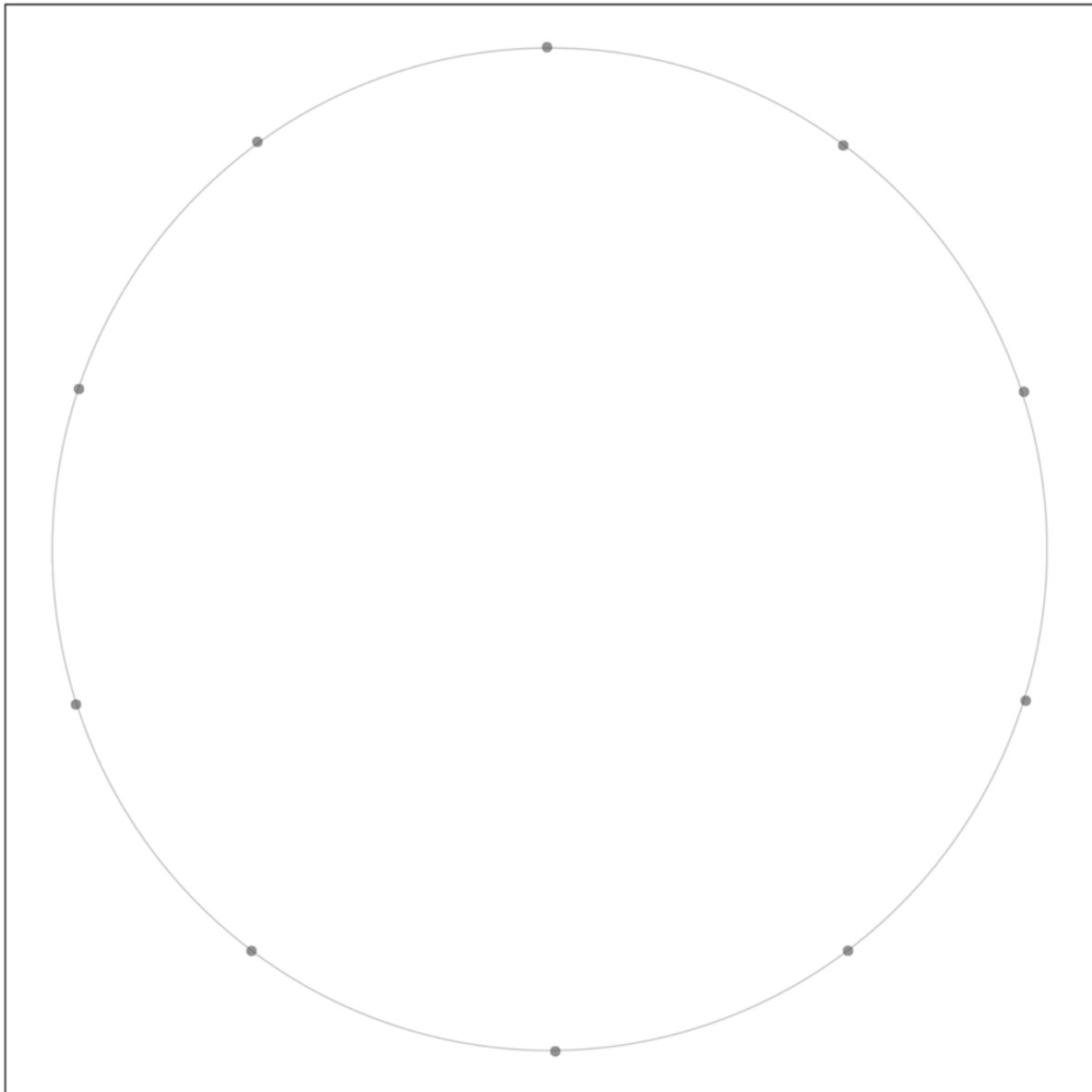
6. Find the small polygons that connect the shapes formed by two overlapping polygons. Outline them all around the grid. Erase the grid lines.



Islamic Art

has 3 key characteristics:

- GEOMETRIC PATTERN with interwoven designs; CALLIGRAPHY using Arabic script; and the ARABESQUE (idealized plant forms).
- Artists took geometric ideas from the ancient Greeks and Romans and created a whole new style.
- Four basic shapes are used to create more complicated patterns – circles; squares or four-sided polygons; triangles; and multisided polygons.



Japanese Notan

You will need:

- Crayola Scissors
- Crayola Glue Sticks
- Pencils
- Crayola Construction Paper - Black - 10 cm x 12.7 cm (4" x 5")
- Crayola Construction Paper - White - 22.9 cm x 30.5 cm (9" x 12")



1



1. Cut 2 pieces of paper one 3.8 cm x 5 cm (1.5" x 2") and one 4.5 cm x 7.6 cm (1.75" x 3").
2. Think of some shapes that communicate something about your identity.
3. Draw 2 different shapes of symbols that represent things that are an important part of your identity on the pieces of paper.

2



1. Cut out the shapes.
2. Use the shapes as tracers.

3



1. Place a tracer on one side of your black paper.
2. Line it up so it is half on and half off the black paper.
3. Trace the half that is on the black paper.
4. Repeat on the opposite side of the paper so that the shapes are a mirror image of each other.
 - You should have half the shape on opposite sides of your black paper.
5. Next, use your other tracer to trace two shapes on the other sides of the black paper.
6. This time trace the whole shape.
7. Trace them so the shapes are a mirror image of each other.

Japanese Notan

Notan is a Japanese design idea that explores the relationship between dark and light in an artwork. The word means dark and light balance. A notan artwork uses only dark and light shapes placed next to each other. It challenges you to create balance and harmony in an artwork, and to notice how the light (positive) and dark (negative) shapes interact with each other.

4



1. Carefully cut out the four shapes.

5



1. Use the template to cut your white construction paper into a hexagon.
2. Glue the large piece of black paper to the construction paper.
3. Place each shape beside the matching cut-out space.
4. Check carefully to be sure that you have placed each shape beside its matching shape and that it is facing the correct direction to be a mirror image.

6



1. When you are pleased with the way your shapes are placed use your Crayola glue stick to carefully glue each shape in place.
2. Glue your design to a piece of black construction paper cut into a hexagon just a little larger than your white paper.
3. Glue the quilt strips around the outer edges of the hexagon shape (on the back of the paper) to create a frame. Half of each strip should be hidden by your block, and the other half should frame your design.

Shape

A 2-dimensional figure or object



Do you see the two faces or the goblet?

ORGANIC

Free-flowing, created by nature.

GEOMETRIC

Based on geometry, e.g., circle, square, triangle.

NEGATIVE

The shapes around or between the positive shape - the background.

POSITIVE

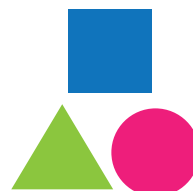
The self-contained, 2-dimensional figure.

2-DIMENSIONAL

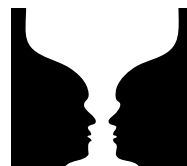
Has height and width.



ORGANIC



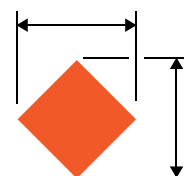
GEOMETRIC



NEGATIVE



POSITIVE



2-DIMENSIONAL

