



Activity sheets

Discover patterns, symmetry and tessellation in the Islamic world Gallery

Part 1 Explore

Welcome to the Islamic world Gallery (Room 34)

In this gallery 'Islamic' is used to define the culture of peoples living in places where Islam is the main religion. The gallery explores Islamic faith, art, calligraphy and science.

Islamic patterns

Islamic decoration consists of three main elements, which are often used in the decoration of an object:

Calligraphy – forms of Arabic script (writing)

Arabesques – scrolling floral or plant-like designs

Geometric patterns – patterns with repeating shapes such as circles, lines and triangles

Task 1: Which object in this gallery has your favourite pattern on it?

a) Draw your object.



b) What is your object?

.....

c) What is it used for?

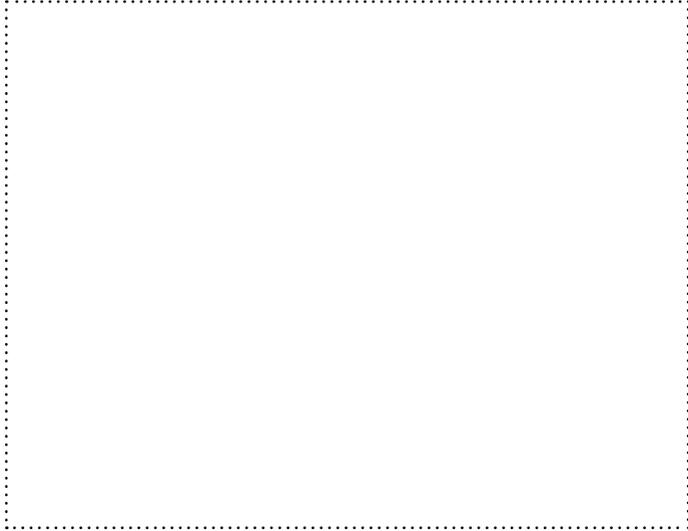
.....

d) Zoom in and draw the pattern.



Task 2: Find an object that is similar to your favourite one

a) Draw the similar object.



b) What is this object?

.....

c) Describe 2 ways it is similar to your favorite object.

1)

2)

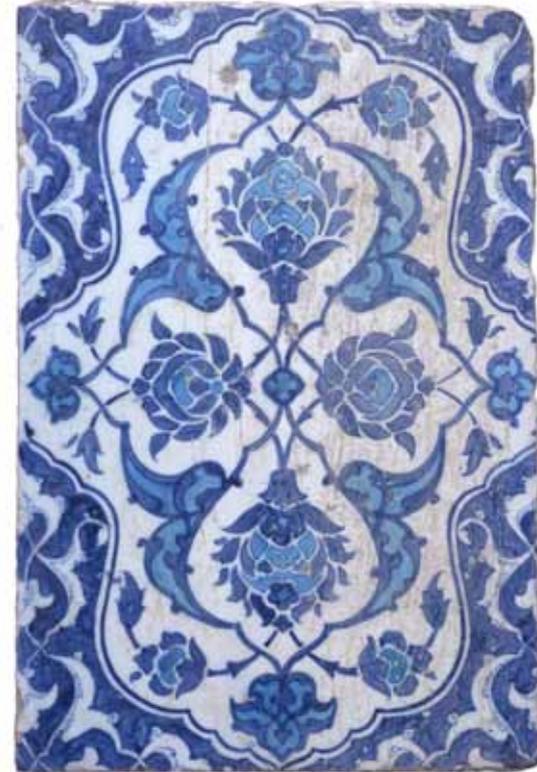
d) Describe 2 ways it is different to your favorite object.

1)

2)

Part 2 Maths in action

Find this object (Case 33)

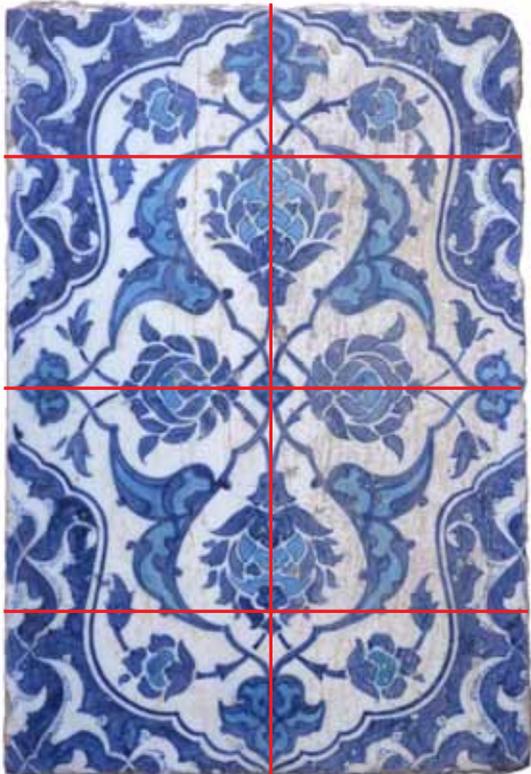


This is an **Iznik tile**

Iznik tiles were used to decorate many grand buildings in the Ottoman Empire between the 15th and 17th centuries.

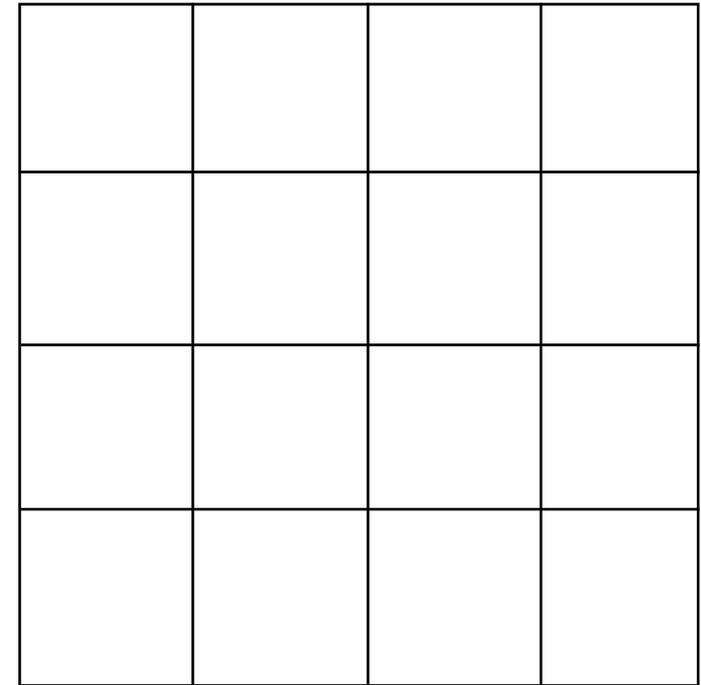
Iznik is a town in Turkey where these tiles were originally produced.

The Ottoman Empire was the one of the largest and longest lasting empires in history, starting in 1301 and ending in 1922.



Task 1: Imagine you are a tile-maker in the **Ottoman court's imperial workshop**

Design an Iznik tile for the Sultan



The tile should include

- the 3 elements of Islamic art (see part 1)
- the Iznik colours, green, blue, purple and red
- symmetry

Symmetry is when a shape is exactly the same when you flip, rotate or turn it.

**Task 2: Tessellate your designed Iznik tile
(at least twice).**

A **tessellation** (or **tiling**) is when you cover a surface with a pattern of flat shapes so that there are no overlaps or gaps.

