

Exploring Islamic Art and Architecture

Learning objective: To understand the significance of geometric patterns and features in Islamic art and mosque architecture.

Use your knowledge of Islamic art to complete the drawing task. Focus on symmetry and pattern. You may use rulers and protractors to ensure your geometric shapes are precise.

Draw: Draw a grand entrance to a mosque. Include a large, circular dome at the top of the building and a tall, slender minaret to the side. On the walls of the building, draw a repeating geometric pattern (like stars or interlocking hexagons). Include a decorative archway for the entrance and add some elegant, flowing calligraphy above the door. Use a pencil to sketch first, then add vibrant colours using patterns that show perfect symmetry.



Label words: Minaret · Dome · Geometric pattern · Symmetry · Tessellation · Calligraphy · Mihrab

Steps:

1. Why do you think geometric patterns are used so often in Islamic art instead of drawings of people or animals?
2. Label the parts of your drawing using the words from the word bank.
3. Define the term 'tessellation' in your own words.
4. Which feature of a mosque helps people identify the direction for prayer?

5. Explain how symmetry helps create a sense of balance in your artwork.