

Diwali Rangoli: Patterns and Symmetry

Learning objective: To understand the cultural significance of Rangoli patterns and apply knowledge of geometric symmetry in Art.

Read each flashcard carefully to learn about the history and design of Rangoli. Use these facts to help you create your own symmetrical designs.

What is Rangoli?

A traditional Indian folk art where patterns are created on the floor using materials like coloured rice, dry flour, or flower petals.

During which festival are Rangoli patterns traditionally created?

Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, which celebrates the victory of light over darkness.

What is the primary purpose of placing a Rangoli at the entrance of a home?

It is believed to welcome guests and bring good luck and prosperity into the household.

Define 'line of symmetry' in the context of a Rangoli design.

An imaginary line where, if you folded the pattern in half, both sides would match perfectly.

Why do many Rangoli designs use geometric shapes?

Geometric shapes like circles, squares, and triangles help to create balanced, repeating patterns that are visually harmonious.

What does 'rotational symmetry' mean for a pattern?

It means a pattern looks the same even after it has been rotated or turned around a central point.

How does Zara the zebra use her knowledge of patterns to help her design a Rangoli?

Zara identifies repeating sequences and balances her colours to ensure the design is symmetrical and pleasing to the eye.

Explain why artists often use bright, vibrant colours in Rangoli.

Vibrant colours are used to represent joy, celebration, and the welcoming of positive energy during the festival.

Compare and contrast a flower-petal Rangoli with a coloured-sand Rangoli.

Both use natural materials and symmetry, however, sand allows for finer detail, while petals add texture and a three-dimensional effect.

Justify your answer: Does a Rangoli pattern need to be perfectly symmetrical to be considered 'traditional'?

While symmetry is a key feature in traditional designs to represent order and balance, many variations exist based on regional styles and individual creativity.

What might happen if a Rangoli design had no centre point?

Without a central focal point, it might be more difficult for the eye to track the pattern, potentially making the design feel chaotic rather than balanced.

If you were designing a Rangoli for a community space, how would you ensure the pattern is welcoming to all?

By using inclusive symbols, balanced harmonious colours, and ensuring the size is large enough to be appreciated by everyone entering the space.