

Patterns of Light: Diwali Rangoli

Learning objective: To explore the cultural significance of Rangoli patterns and apply principles of symmetry and geometric precision to create a festive design.

Use your knowledge of patterns, symmetry, and geometric shapes to complete the tasks below. Think about how Zara would use her eye for detail to create a balanced design.

Rangoli is a traditional Indian art form where intricate patterns are created on the floor using materials like coloured sand, rice flour, or flower petals. During the festival of Diwali, the Festival of Lights, families create these beautiful displays to welcome prosperity and good fortune. Many designs feature repeating geometric shapes, floral motifs, and lines of symmetry, which help create a sense of harmony and balance.

Word bank: Symmetry · Geometric · Diwali · Rangoli · Pattern · Reflection · Festival · Tessellation

1. Explain why symmetry is an important feature in traditional Rangoli designs. How does a balanced design affect the way the viewer perceives the artwork? (2 marks)

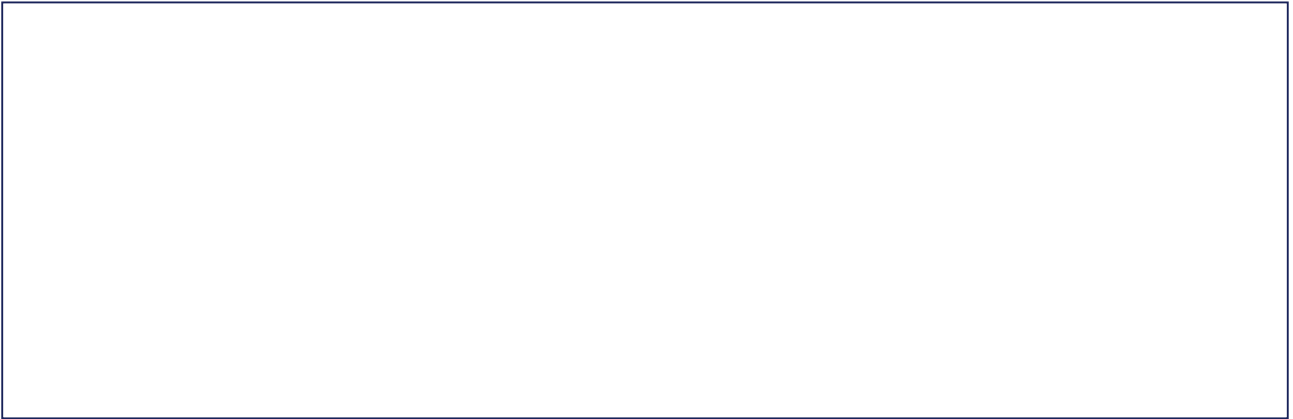
2. Compare and contrast the use of natural materials (like flower petals) versus synthetic materials in Rangoli art. Which would be more temporary and why? (2 marks)

3. If you were designing a Rangoli pattern for a square-shaped entrance, justify your choice of using a central point of symmetry rather than an asymmetrical layout. (2 marks)

4. Identify three geometric shapes that are commonly found in Rangoli patterns. How do these shapes help in creating a repeating tessellation? (2 marks)

5. What might happen to the visual impact of a Rangoli pattern if the artist chose to use only dull, monochromatic colours instead of vibrant, contrasting ones? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Using a grid, design your own original Rangoli pattern. Ensure your design demonstrates at least one line of reflectional symmetry and incorporates at least three different geometric shapes.



Extension challenge: Research how Rangoli designs have evolved over time. Write a short paragraph discussing how modern artists might incorporate new materials while still respecting the traditional spiritual significance of the Diwali festival.