

Diwali Rangoli Patterns with Zara

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

Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of patterns, symmetry, and Diwali traditions to answer. You may use the word bank to help you express your ideas.

Rangoli is a traditional Indian art form created on the floor using materials like coloured rice, dry flour, or flower petals. During the festival of Diwali, families create these beautiful designs at the entrance of their homes to welcome guests and bring good luck. These patterns often feature geometric shapes, floral motifs, and repeating lines, requiring a steady hand and a great eye for balance.

Word bank: Symmetry · Geometric · Pigment · Diwali · Festival of Lights · Mandala · Welcoming · Vibrant

1. Zara is designing a Rangoli pattern. Explain why symmetry is an important mathematical concept when creating these traditional floor designs. (2 marks)

2. Why do families traditionally place Rangoli designs at the entrance of their homes during the Festival of Lights? (1 mark)

3. List three materials that could be used to create a Rangoli pattern if you were working outside on a school playground. (2 marks)

4. If a pack of coloured sand costs £2.50 and Zara needs 4 packs for her large Rangoli, how much will she spend in total? (2 marks)

5. Describe the difference between a geometric pattern and a floral motif in the context of Rangoli art. (2 marks)

Draw: Using a pencil, draw a Rangoli pattern in the space below. Ensure your design is symmetrical and uses at least three repeating geometric shapes. Imagine you are using bright, vibrant colours to fill in your shapes.



Extension challenge: Research how Rangoli patterns differ across different regions of India. Can you find a design that uses a 'dot grid' (podi) and explain how the dots help the artist keep the symmetry accurate?