

Diwali Rangoli Artistry with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To understand the cultural significance, geometric patterns, and traditional techniques used in creating Diwali Rangoli art.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of Rangoli. Read the front of the card, think of the answer, then check the back to see if you are correct. Zara the Zebra wants you to pay close attention to the symmetry and symbolism behind each design!

What is the primary purpose of creating a Rangoli pattern during the festival of Diwali? It is a traditional art form used to decorate the floors of homes to welcome guests and bring good luck and prosperity.	Which mathematical concept is essential for creating a balanced and aesthetically pleasing Rangoli design? Symmetry (specifically reflectional or rotational symmetry).
Traditionally, what materials are used to create the fine, colourful patterns in a Rangoli? Coloured rice flour, dry flour, coloured sand, or flower petals.	What does the term 'Diwali' signify in terms of its cultural meaning? It is the 'Festival of Lights', celebrating the victory of light over darkness and good over evil.
In geometry, what do we call a pattern that repeats without any gaps or overlaps, often seen in Rangoli? Tessellation.	Why do many Rangoli designs feature circular, radiating patterns known as mandalas? They represent the universe, unity, and harmony, drawing the eye towards a central focal point.
How does Zara the Zebra use 'negative space' when planning her Rangoli art? She leaves intentional empty areas to make the filled-in sections and colours stand out more vividly.	Explain why artists often choose to use bright, vibrant colours in their Rangoli designs. Bright colours are used to symbolise joy, celebration, and the triumph of light, making the home feel warm and inviting.
Compare and contrast a Rangoli pattern with a standard geometric grid. How do they differ? While both use geometry, a grid is often rigid and functional, whereas a Rangoli uses fluid, organic, and intricate curves to create decorative beauty.	Justify why precision is important when creating a Rangoli. What might happen if the proportions are ignored? Precision ensures the symmetry remains intact; if proportions are ignored, the pattern may appear unbalanced or chaotic, losing its traditional sense of harmony.
What might happen to the cultural meaning of a Rangoli if a modern artist were to use digital light projections instead of traditional materials? It might lose the tactile, communal experience of hand-crafting, though it could expand the reach of the art form; pupils should justify their view on tradition vs. innovation.	Design a new Rangoli pattern for your classroom. How would you incorporate 'rotational symmetry' into your plan? By ensuring that if the design is rotated around a central point, the pattern appears identical at specific degree intervals (e.g., 90 or 180 degrees).