

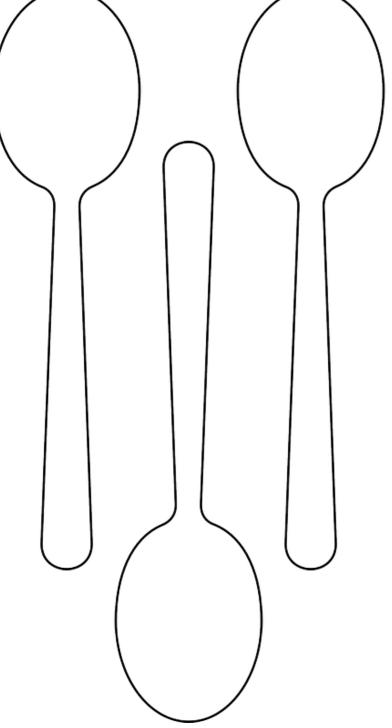


Look at the handles of these spoons and see how many different designs there are, and they all use shapes! So the spoons in the picture were decorated by artists a long time ago. Your job is to decorate the spoons below with repeating geometric patterns you create!

V C

LNS 102 W a – j, 10 luxurious spoons,

Turkey, late 18th century CE





Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah

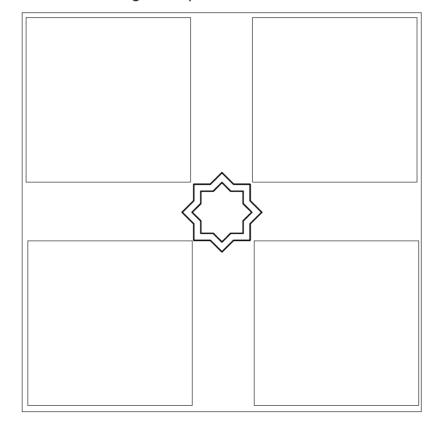


MOTIFS IN ISLAMIC ART

One of the most common motifs in Islamic art is "Vegetal". Vegetal patterns are patterns that relate to plants. Sometimes the plants are imaginary in how they look and how they 'grow'.

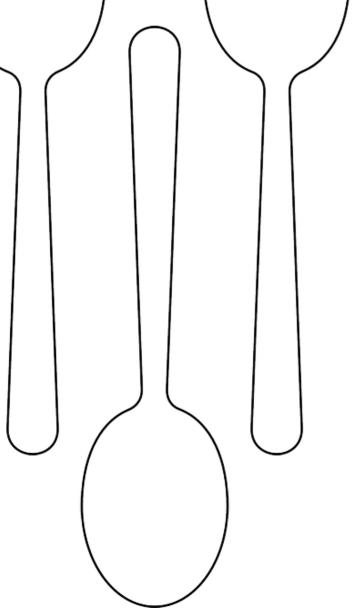
This carpet presents a very special vegetal pattern. It is based on a real garden style called chahar baghs, which means 'four gardens'. Most people think this represents the four gardens of Paradise that are mentioned in the Qur'an. One of the hallmarks of chahar baghs is that the four-part garden is laid out with paths that intersect at the garden's centre, frequently with a water feature.

Take a close look at this carpet (either here or in the exhibition). Can you find the fish? How about the birds? Look at the leaves, do you think this is the garden in winter, spring, summer or autumn? After you've had a good look at this carpet, create your very own chahar baghs carpet in the outline below.





LNS 10 R, Pile chahar baghs Carpet, North-west or Central Iran, early 18th century CE



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Calligraphy is the most important Islamic art motif. Do you know why? Think about it for a minute. Did you guess it's because that's how the Qur'an is shared with people all over the world? If you did, you are 100% right!

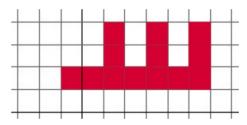


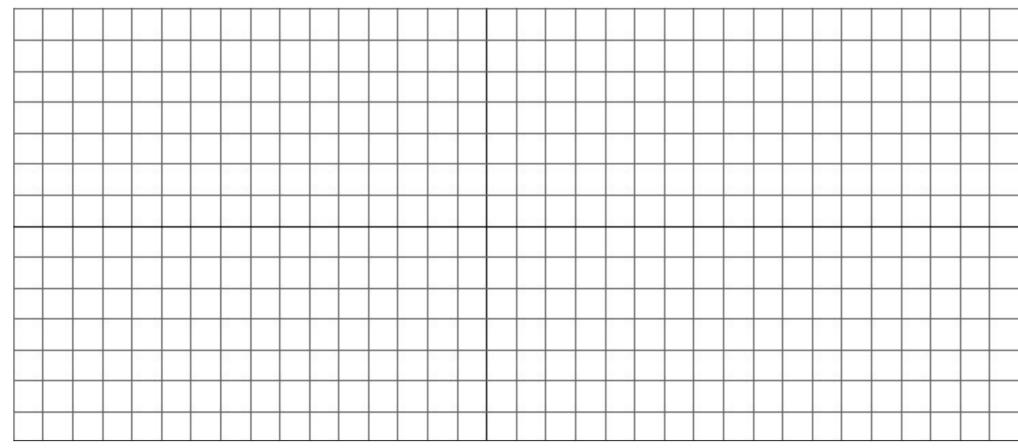
LNS 61 T, Fragmentary linen tiraz textile with an elegant and highly stylized inscription, Egypt, 10th century CE

There are lots of kinds of Islamic calligraphy, called styles. There's Naskh, Thuluth, Ruq'ah, Kufic and several others. If you read the labels on the calligraphy objects in *al-Fann*, the name of the calligraphy style is given. Kufic is one of the oldest Arabic styles and one famous variation in called Square Kufic.

Square Kufic has a very strict formula and this grid version of the letters will help you. Decide whether the letter is the first in the word, last in the word or in between. Then find the right column, count the grid squares and fill in the same pattern in the grid below.

Use the grid below to write your name in Square Kufic. If you don't know how to write your name in Arabic, you can write Salaam, which means "peace". The letters required are numbered, but you have to decide where in the word the letters appear. Also, don't forget the word is written right to left. For example, Seen is the first letter in Salaam. That means it would be written like this:





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