

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ISLAMIC ART

18 NOVEMBER

LEARNING ACTIVITIES WORKSHEET

AGE GROUP: 10 YEARS & ABOVE

CALLIGRAPHY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TYPE OF ISLAMIC ART. MUSLIM ARTISTS MAKE THEIR BEAUTIFUL PATTERNS BY USING GEOMETRIC SHAPES.

THERE ARE DIFFERENT STYLES OF **CALLIGRAPHY**:



KUFIC: THIS IS THE OLDEST TYPE OF ARABIC WRITING, KNOWN FOR ITS ANGLED CORNERS. THE FIRST VERSIONS OF KUFIC WRITING DIDN'T INCLUDE DOTS OR ACCENTS, AND HAD ONLY 17 LETTERS. DOTS AND ACCENTS ADDED TO ARABIC WRITING IN THE 7TH CENTURY MADE READING EASIER. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ARABIC LETTERS INCREASED TO 28.



مَنْ جَدَّ وَجَدَ وَمَنْ
زَرَعَ حَصَدَ

NASKH: THIS CURSIVE SCRIPT APPEARED IN THE 10TH CENTURY. IT AROSE FROM THE NEED FOR SIMPLER WRITING TO SPREAD ISLAM. NASKH, MEANING COPY IN ARABIC, BECAME THE STANDARD FOR WRITING BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS.

وَأَنبَاءُ الْعَالِي خُلُوفِ عِظِيمٍ

THULUTH: THIS STYLE OF WRITING CAME OUT IN THE 10TH CENTURY. ITS NAME MEANS "THIRD" AS LETTERS ARE ONE-THIRD THE HEIGHT OF THE 'ALIF. THERE ARE BIG SPACE IN THE WRITING ITSELF, AND IT WAS FURTHER DEVELOPED BY AHMAD TAYYIB SHAH.

فَلِمْ فَمِنْ فِهْ فَوْفِدْ فِي
كَتْ كَحْ كَرْ كَسْ كَسْ

REQA: THIS STYLE OF WRITING IS BASED ON THE NASKH AND THULUTH, FIRST APPEARING IN THE 10TH CENTURY. THIS SHAPE IS SIMPLE WITH SHORT STROKES.



MUHAQQAQ: THIS STYLE OF WRITING IS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BUT ONE OF THE HARDEST TO WRITE. IT WAS USED DURING THE MAMLUK ERA. AFTER THE 18TH CENTURY, THIS STYLE WAS ONLY USED FOR SHORT PHRASES LIKE BISMALLAH.

REGIONAL STYLES: ARABIC WRITING SPREAD IN MANY AREAS WITH THE SPREAD OF ISLAM. EACH REGION HAD ITS OWN SPECIAL STYLE. OTHER CURSIVE STYLES BEGAN TO DEVELOP IN TURKEY, PERSIA AND CHINA IN THE 14TH CENTURY.



MAGHREBI: THIS STYLE ORIGINATED IN THE MAGHREB (NORTH AFRICA) AND AL-ANDALUS (IBERIA). IT IS TRADITIONALLY WRITTEN WITH A POINTED TIP TO CREATE LINES OF EQUAL THICKNESS. THERE ARE DIFFERENT SUB-TYPES SUCH AS THE CURSIVE MUJAWHER AND THE CEREMONIAL MABSUT.



SUDANI: THIS IS A SUBCATEGORY OF THE MAGHREBI SCRIPT THAT CAME OUT OF BILAD AS-SUDAN (WEST AFRICAN SAHEL).



DIWANI: THIS STYLE OF ARABIC CALLIGRAPHY FORMED IN THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES DURING THE EARLY RULE OF THE OTTOMAN TURKS.



NASTA'LIQ: THIS IS A CURSIVE STYLE ORIGINALLY MADE TO WRITE IN THE PERSIAN LANGUAGE AND NON-QURANIC WORKS. IT IS CONSIDERED A DEVELOPMENT OF THE NASKH SCRIPT AND TA'LIQ SCRIPT USED IN IRAN.

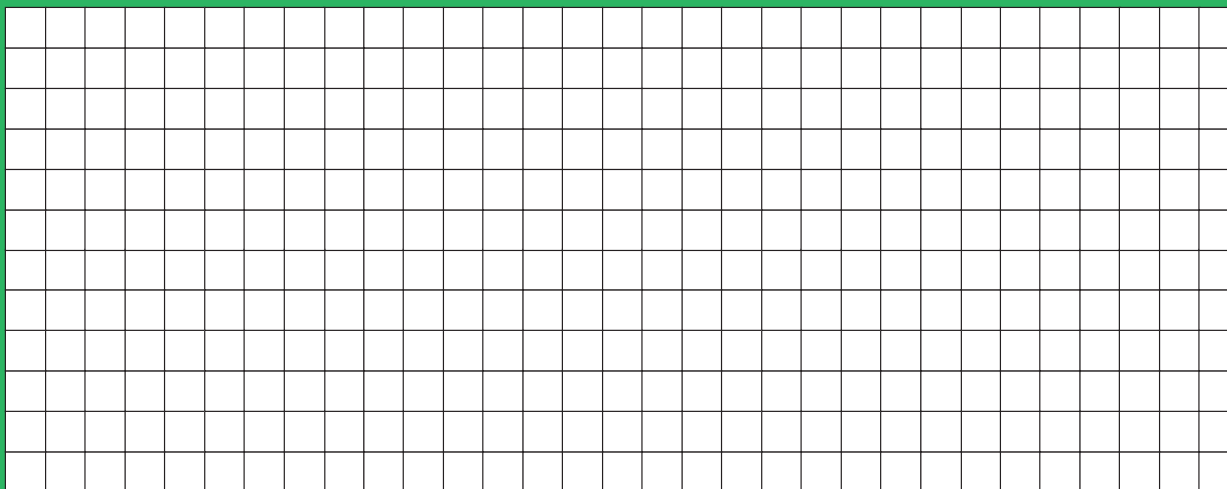


SINI: THIS STYLE OF WRITING WAS INFLUENCED BY CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY. A HORSEHAIR BRUSH IS USED INSTEAD OF A STANDARD REED PEN.

MODERN: ARTISTS IN NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST TRANSFORMED ARABIC CALLIGRAPHY INTO A MODERN ART MOVEMENT KNOWN AS THE HURUFIYYA MOVEMENT. THEY USE THE CALLIGRAPHY AS A GRAPHIC PATTERN WITHIN CONTEMPORARY ARTWORKS.

ACTIVITY 1

WRITE YOUR NAME IN KUFICALLIGRAPHY USING THE DIAGRAM BELOW AS A REFERENCE.



	Initial	Medial	Final	Isolated	Variations
ا			ا	ا	ا
ب	ب	ب	ب	ب	ب
ج	ج	ج	ج	ج	ج
د			د	د	د
ز			ز	ز	ز
س	س	س	س	س	س
ص	ص	ص	ص	ص	ص
ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ
غ	غ	غ	غ	غ	غ
ف	ف	ف	ف	ف	ف
ق	ق	ق	ق	ق	ق
ك	ك	ك	ك	ك	ك
ل	ل	ل	ل	ل	ل
م	م	م	م	م	م
ن	ن	ن	ن	ن	ن
ه	ه	ه	ه	ه	ه
و			و	و	و
لا			لا	لا	لا
ي	ي	ي	ي	ي	ي



ACTIVITY 2

A TUGHRA (OTTOMAN TURKISH: طغرا, ROMANIZED: TUĞRÂ) IS THE OFFICIAL SIGNATURE OF THE SULTAN. IT WAS CARVED ON HIS SEAL AND STAMPED ON THE COINS MINTED DURING HIS RULE. CAN YOU WRITE YOUR NAME IN THE TUGHRA STYLE?

