



Exploring Islamic Architecture

Grade: 6-10

Subject: Mathematics/Science

Time Frame: 1-2 classes

Materials: Laptop, projector, white board, loose leaf, pencils, compass, rulers, markers, crayons, construction paper, craft supplies.

Learning Outcomes:

- Appreciate and celebrate rich traditions contributing to our collective knowledge.
- Encourage students to reflect on the importance of diversity and the impact of lack thereof.
- Introduces students to an overlooked aspect of Islamic civilization and legacy - deconstruct stereotypes through education.

Behavioural Objective:

- Students will be given the opportunity to create their own geometrical pattern resembling Islamic architecture while enhancing their understanding of the richness of Islamic civilization.

Activating:

- According to your students' grade, refer to the provincial curriculum in order to alter this activity to meet the needs of your students.
- Resume the lesson by asking students what they know about Islam and whether the class has ever seen or learned about Islamic architecture and art.
- Continue by introducing the core values of Islam and the importance of beautifying mosques (places of worship for all Muslims).

Visit the recommended list of readings on Islam as well as our interactive learning opportunities!

Islamic Architecture:

- Islamic architecture could be traced back to the seventh century onwards. The epitome of Islamic art are mosques and Islamic schools. For more information on Islamic Architecture, visit the [Metropolitan Museum's website](#), [British Columbia/Yukon Open Authoring Platform](#), and [Britannica](#) (1 | 2)
- Continue by showing a series of visuals asking students to label the country, and the type of the infrastructure they are observing. Mosques are a great example of the complexity and beauty of Islamic art.

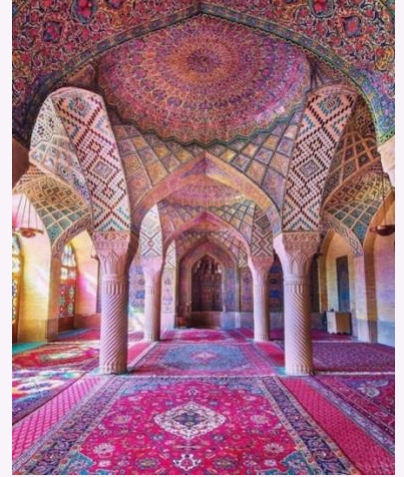
Visuals



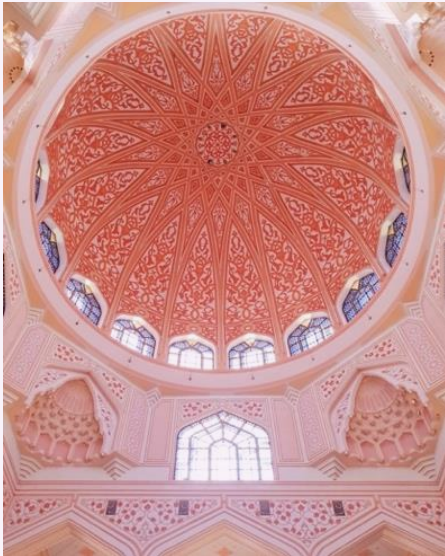
[Folio from a Qur'an Manuscript](#)
dated A.H. 531/ 1137 CE



Blue Mosque,
Turkey



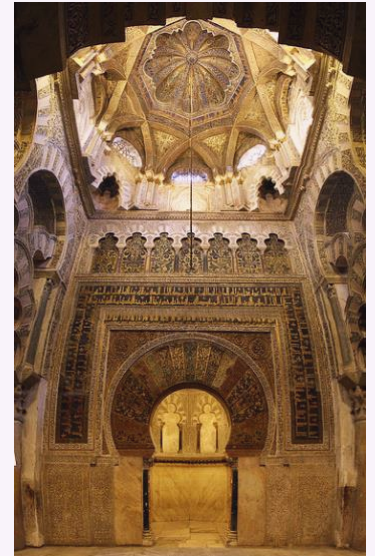
Nasir ol Molk Mosque,
Iran



Putra Mosque,
Malaysia



Haydar Khara Mosque,
Iraq



Great Mosque of Cordoba,
Spain

Applying:

- Continue by watching Eric Brough's TED Talk on Islamic geometry in class and allowing students time to work on developing their own tile.
[TED TALK: The Complex Geometry of Islamic Design – Eric Brough](#)
- Provide students with paint and colourful crayons and pencils to colour their design.

Assessment:

- Once students have finished working on their tile, encourage them to share their work with each other. For example, the students' art could be used to decorate the classroom or as part of a larger project; students could work collaboratively to design a tile to cover a wall in their class using craft materials. Hence, assessment could vary from collecting and grading their work individually to assigning a group project.