THE STRIVING

MUSLIM ACADEMY

Islamic and Academic Education

STAGE 1 · ART AND DESIGN · LOOKING AT ARTISTS AND MAKERS

Looking at artists and makers

Techniques to learn, things to make, and the questions to ask of your own work when it is finished.

WHAT IS INSIDE

- Pattern made from a circle
- Makers who are not painters
- Task 1: An eight pointed star
- Task 2: Repeat it
- Two makers, side by side
- Look at your own work

The Striving Muslim Academy

No answers at the back. There is nothing here to mark.

Written for a parent teaching at home. No training assumed, and nothing else to buy.

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Pattern made from a circle

Read this, then try it on the page underneath.



PATTERN MADE FROM A CIRCLE

Much of the geometric pattern in Islamic art is built from a circle. The circle is divided into equal parts, lines are drawn between the marks, and a shape appears inside.

Divide a circle into six and you can draw a six pointed star. Divide it into eight and you get an eight pointed one, which is one of the commonest shapes in tilework.

The pattern then repeats, and because it is built on equal divisions it fits together with no gaps. This is why it can cover a whole wall.

Makers who are not painters

Read this, then try it on the page underneath.



MAKERS WHO ARE NOT PAINTERS

An artist is not only somebody who paints.

A weaver decides colour and pattern before a single thread is placed.

A potter decides shape and surface.

A calligrapher decides the weight and rhythm of every stroke.

A builder decides proportion: how tall against how wide.

All of them are designing, and all of them make the same decisions a painter makes.

Two makers, side by side

Go and look at a real thing. This is the lesson, not the warm up.



TWO MAKERS, SIDE BY SIDE

Find two made things in your house from different crafts: a woven cloth and a pot, a tile and a basket. Draw a small part of each.

Then write one way they are alike and one way they are different. Both were designed by somebody, and comparing two crafts teaches more than looking at one twice.

SAMPLE PAGES

You have read a few pages. The pack is longer.

What you are holding is a short sample, taken from different parts of the pack so that you can see how a week is planned and what a child is actually asked to do, before you decide.

The complete pack, and the rest of the academic materials, are on our website: schemes of work for a parent teaching at home, and practice packs for the skills children get stuck on.

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Members of the homeschool community do not buy these. If you have joined the community, the pack for the term you are working on is given to you at no cost.

Our Islamic Education classes are free. These packs are part of what pays the teachers who teach them.