THE STRIVING

MUSLIM ACADEMY

Islamic and Academic Education

STAGE 2 · 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

- Adinkra: a symbol that means something
- Two crafts compared
- Task 1: Design a symbol
- Task 2: Print it
- A woven thing and a tiled or printed thing
- 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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Adinkra: a symbol that means something

Read this, then try it on the page underneath.



ADINKRA: A SYMBOL THAT MEANS SOMETHING

Adinkra is cloth from Ghana, made by Asante people. An adinkra cloth in the Metropolitan Museum in New York was made in the 1960s, out of cotton, wool and dye.

Each symbol has a name and a meaning, often a saying shortened into a shape. The cloth is not only decorated; it is saying something, and somebody who knows the symbols can read it.

The shapes are simple, balanced, and usually built on a line of symmetry, which is why they print well and read clearly from far away.

Two crafts compared

Read this, then try it on the page underneath.



TWO CRAFTS COMPARED

A weaver and a tile maker solve the same problem in different materials.

Both have to make one small unit and repeat it. Both have to decide how the units meet. Both are limited: a weaver by the threads running straight, a tile maker by the shapes that fit together without gaps.

Those limits are not obstacles to the design. They are where the design comes from, which is true of almost every craft.

A woven thing and a tiled or printed thing

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



A WOVEN THING AND A TILED OR PRINTED THING

Find something woven and something printed or tiled. Look at how each one repeats and where the repeat meets itself.

Which one hides the join better? Write down why you think that is, and whether it is about the design or about the material.

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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Islamic and Academic Education

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.