



اللوفر أبو ظبي  
LOUVRE ABU DHABI

## Activity Journey: Islamic Art with *Hilal*

# Page from the Blue Qur'an

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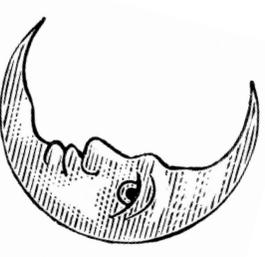
This page is from one of the most beautiful ancient copies of the Quran (Muslims' holy book) to have survived until today. It consist of seven volumes which were probably produced in Tunisia. **Notice** the simple kufic calligraphy written in gold and how it contrasts with the midnight-blue background coloured with indigo: a natural dye extracted from leaves.

### Page from the Blue Qur'an

North Africa, Spain or Sicily, around 900, gold on blue-dyed parchment, Louvre Abu Dhabi

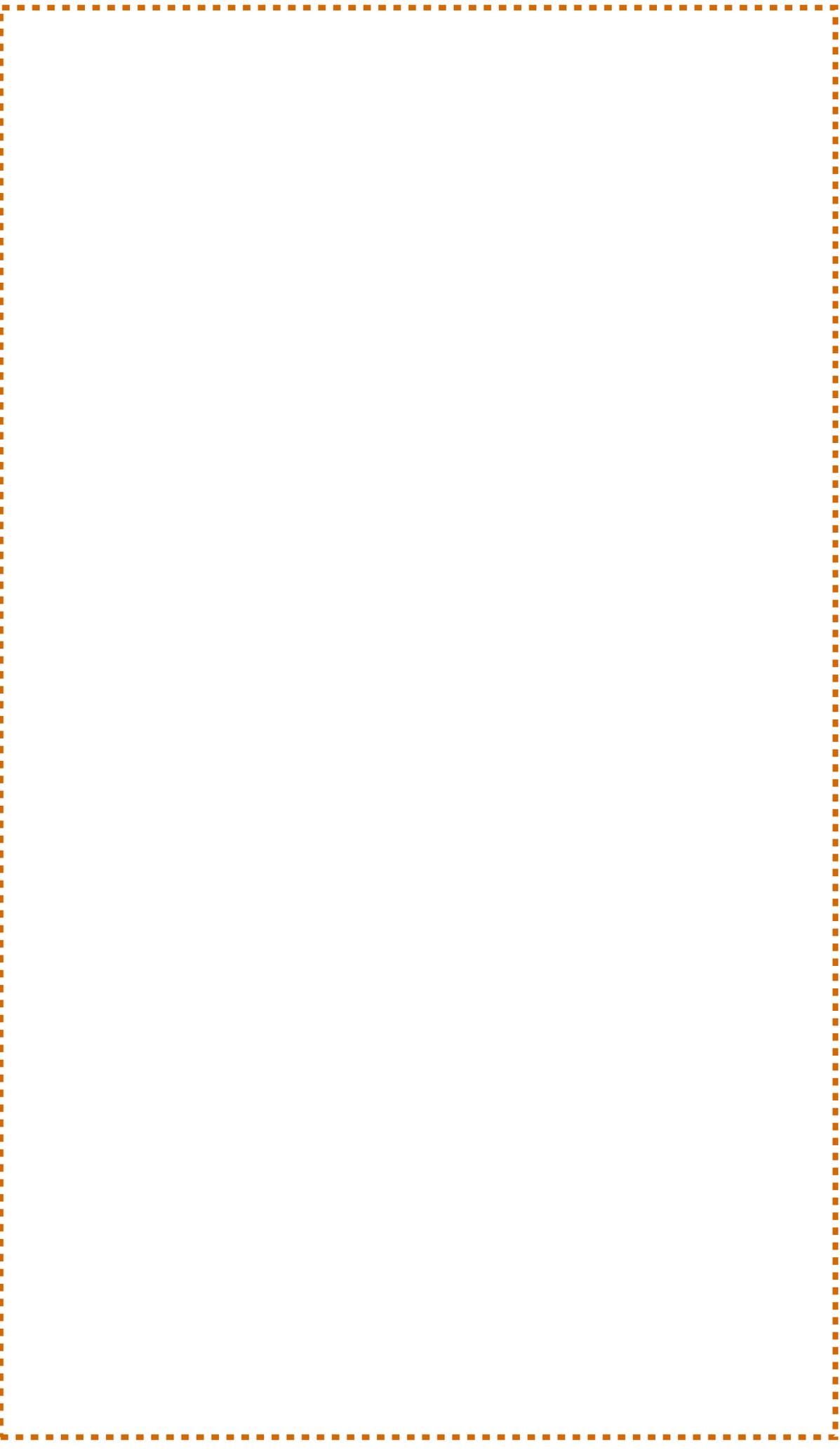
#### Did You Know?

The contrast between gold and indigo symbolizes the divine light spread by the word of God throughout the universe.



## Collage of Words

With the help of an adult, look for the perfect **natural ingredient** for your background from home. It can be a colour from a fruit, a colourful spice, or even charcoal. Then, look in **old magazines and papers** to find words written in a contrasting colours and different fonts to create a collage of words in this space.





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# Architectural Frieze Carved with Quranic Verses



You may have noticed that writings are widely used in architectural decoration in the Islamic world. This frieze from an Indian shrine consists of verses from the Quran, which shows the presence of the new Islamic faith in northern India. The rise of Islam in India brought a new political and artistic era around 800 years ago.

### Did You Know?

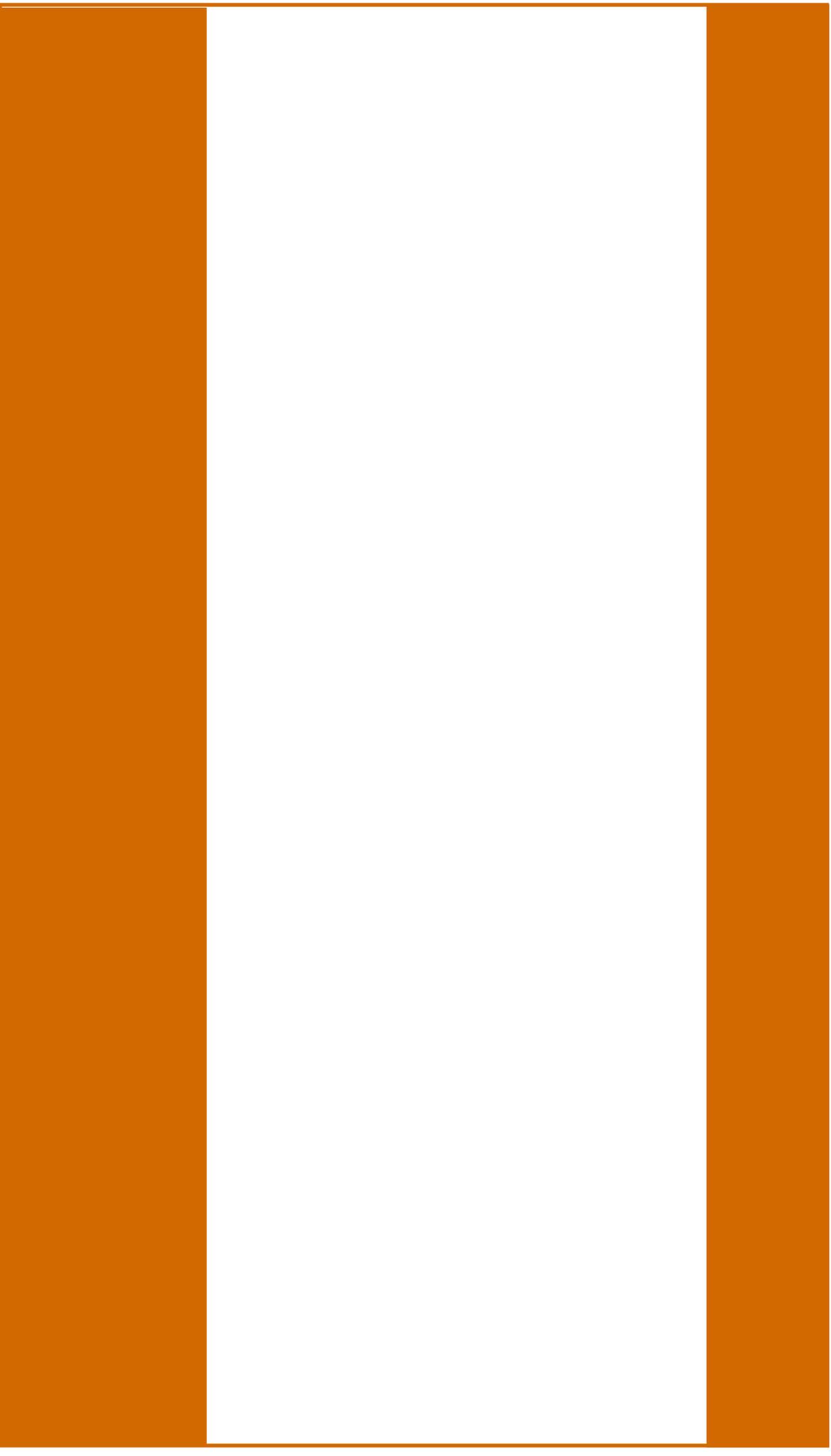
Contact between Arab calligraphy and the Indian tradition of stone sculpture produced some of the most monumental decorations in Islamic art.



**Pavement and Octagonal Fountain**  
Rajasthan (?), Northern India, end of 12th century, sandstone, Louvre Abu Dhabi

## Quote Frieze

Here is a new challenge: pick a line you like from one of your **favorite books** and try to fit it into the frieze **template** below. Use your best **handwriting** and think about including additional **design elements**.

A large white rectangular area for writing a quote, framed by a thick orange border. The area is intended for the user to write a quote from a favorite book and include design elements.



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# Medallion Carpet

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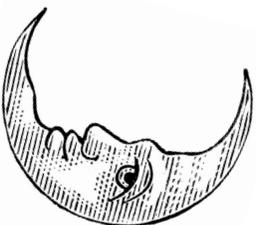


### Medallion Carpet

Ushak, Turkey, around 1480, wool, Louvre Abu Dhabi

### Did You Know?

These carpets were also greatly prized by royals from around Europe like Henry the 8th of England. He had more than five which appeared in different portraits of himself.

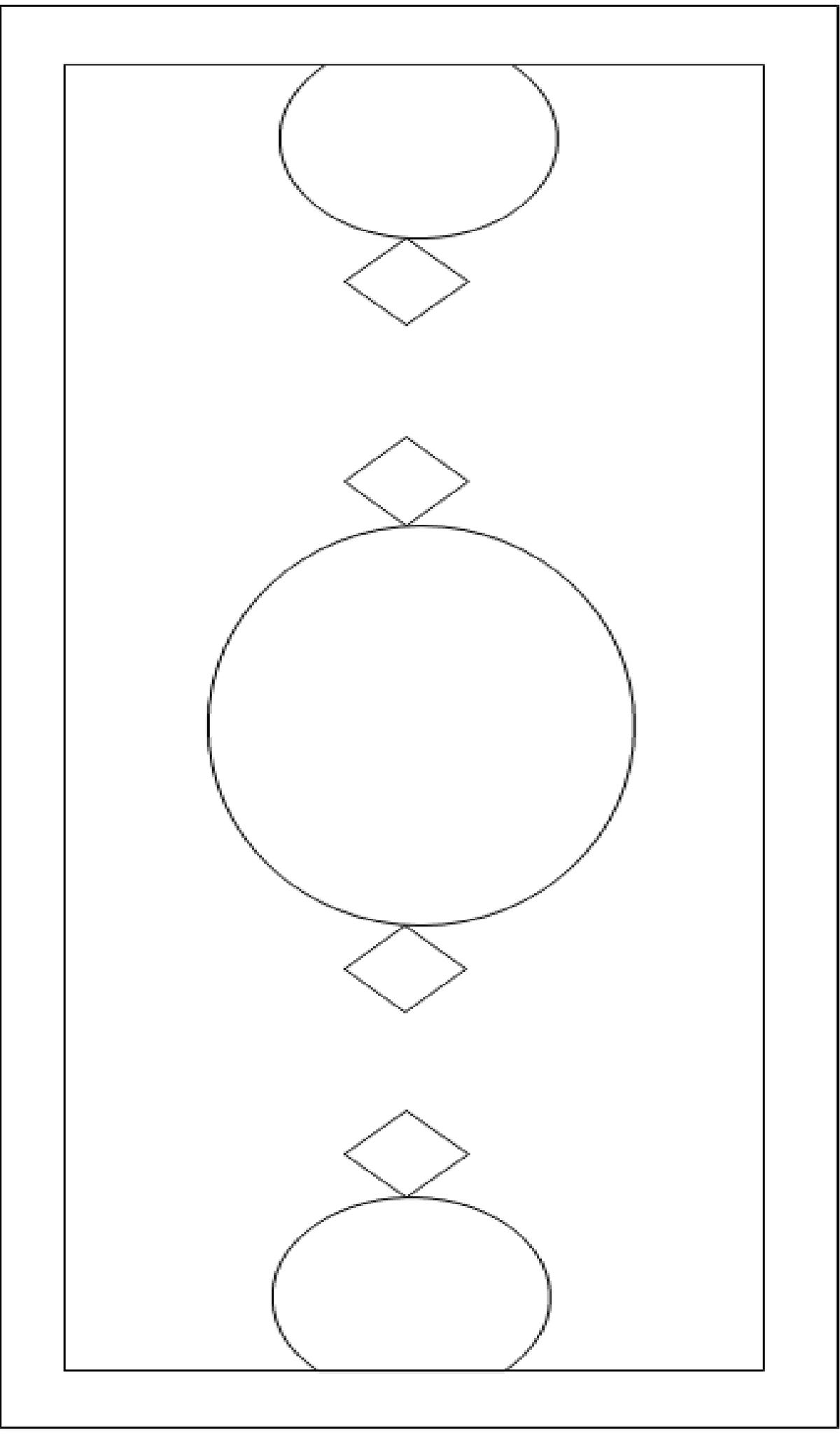


While carpets had a long history before Islam, Muslims brought new ways of decorating carpets and linked them to both worship and daily life. Whether as a domestic carpet, prayer mat or luxury item, a carpet like this one marks a space and defines its purpose. During the Ottoman dynasty, large carpets were requested by the sultans and produced by royal workshops called *naqqashkhane*, where new styles and special patterns were developed mainly in Ushak, Turkey.

## Your Medallion Carpet

Redesign the Medallion Carpet using the **template** below and your creativity. Think about your choice of colours and motifs to fill its different areas: the rim, the center and the background.

**Look** around your house and get inspired by other carpets around you.





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**Activity Journey:  
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## Tile with Volute Decoration on a Red Ground



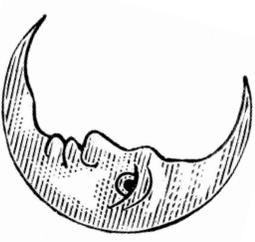
**Tile with Volute Decoration on a Red Ground**

Iznik, Turkey, around 1575-1580, Slicaceous ceramic, underglaze painting over a slip coating, Louvre Abu Dhabi

In the arts of Islam, geometry inspired a new way of looking at the world, through order and balance. This tile reflects the Ottoman taste for rhythm and colour, which became at its best around 500 years ago. The ground of this tile appears in a particular shade of red, which later became famous as the Iznik red. The decorations on this tile are structured by symmetry, as if they grow in a geometric order.

### **Did You Know?**

The detailed decoration on this tile with small leaves and twisting patterns became known in Europe as arabesques.



## New Kitchen Tiles!

Look for another **ingredient from home** that is close in colour to the Iznik red. Use it for the background and then, choose **two other colours** of your choice to create a tile design for your family's new kitchen tiles. Try to express rhythm through the flow of your lines and the twists in your patterns.





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# Pavement and Octagonal Fountain

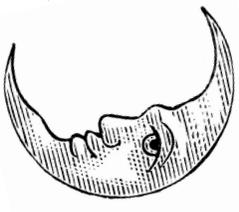
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This floor is a fine example of decorations used in Syria architecture around 800 years ago. White and colored stones were used to decorate internal courtyards, fountains and walls, and were also used for coolness during the summer. The floor and fountain were originally part of the inner courtyard of a house in Damascus.

### *Did You Know?*

In Syria more than anywhere else in the Islamic world, inner courtyards were the central point of houses and palaces with the rooms extending off them.



**Pavement and Octagonal Fountain**  
Damascus, Syria, 18th century, marble, multicoloured limestone, slate, Louvre Abu Dhabi

## Symmetry and Repetition

Now let us try symmetry and repetition. Use your choice of **geometric shapes** to create a symmetric design for your family's living room floor in the space below.

