



'The Arab Weaver', Armand Point (1861-1932). ©Bradford Museums & Galleries.

This painting is on display at Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, Bradford.

You inspire me to ...

Create...

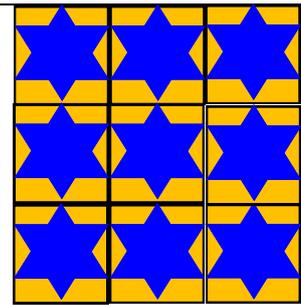
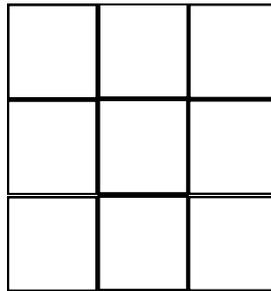
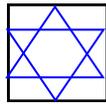
Geometric patterns are very important in Islamic Art. These patterns are made up of regular lines and repeated shapes and the shapes can be reflected and rotated to create a pattern.

Buildings are often decorated with geometric patterns like those which you can see on the tiled floor of the Arab Weaver's House in the painting.

You can create your own geometric patterns like these by 'tessellating' a shape - this means repeating a single shape, without gaps or overlapping it.

What do I need?

- A ruler
- A pencil
- A piece of paper
- A small piece of card – any will do
- Scissors
- Colouring pencils or felt tip pens



What am I doing?

- On your card draw a 6cm x 6cm square and draw a 6 point star with equal sides to fit inside the square (see the star diagram above).
- On your paper draw a grid (like the grid diagram above) with nine 6cm x 6cm squares, 3 going across and 3 going down.
- Cut around your card star template and place inside a square on your grid. Draw around the star shape.
- Now slide the star template down so the top point of the star template is touching the bottom point of the star you have just drawn.
- Draw around the template again.
- Keep repeating this until your grid is covered in stars, then colour in your pattern.

Hints and Tips

- As you colour in the pattern you will also notice another pattern appearing!
- You can make a bigger grid to fill a piece of paper and cover it with even more stars.
- Can you find anything in your house with a tessellating pattern?