

MARK RANDLE

MANDALA SCHOOL



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Mandala School

An Interactive Adventure in Sacred Geometry

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First edition

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Everything you see is just frozen
imagination—so why not imagine
something beautiful?

—Smudge

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Welcome

Welcome to *An Interactive Adventure in Sacred Geometry*! This is more than just a book—it's an adventure into the hidden secrets and timeless beauty of geometric patterns.

To join the journey, you'll need:

- **Blank paper** – your canvas for creation
- **A pencil** – for sketching, testing, and trying again
- **A pencil sharpener** – to keep your ideas sharp
- **A ruler** – to guide your straight lines
- **A compass** – to draw perfect circles
- **An eraser** – to refine your work

With these tools in hand, you're ready to explore the world of mandalas, one circle at a time.

Enjoyed the adventure? Scan the code to discover more stories, drawing activities, and creative projects at Sacred Geometry School.



sacredgeometryschool.com

1

Bong

As dawn broke, rain fell heavily on the Sanctuary of Symmetry, a great temple in the heart of the rainforest. Its walls were etched with intricate geometric carvings—circles within circles, spirals within spirals, and patterns so precise they defied belief.

The rainforest itself was alive with splendour too. As the morning rain began to ease, animals emerged one by one from the dripping jungle. Orangutans swung lazily between slippery vines. Bright blue butterflies darted through the mist, while scarlet macaws painted flashes of red across the grey sky. Every creature, great and small, added its own colour, character, and call to the waking forest.

Back in the temple, Smudge—the temple master—slowly opened his eyes after his morning meditation. He looked at his watch—worn proudly on the wrong wrist (he liked it that way)—and nodded. *It's time.*

He rose to his feet and began to prepare. With a broom in one hand and a feather duster in the other, he cleaned the temple from top to bottom. He dusted the tables, lined up the pencils, and set out the tools for the day's work. With everything finally

in place, Smudge stood back and nodded.

“There,” he said proudly. “I think we’re ready.”

Satisfied with his work, he walked over to a glass cabinet in the corner and carefully lifted out a huge mallet. It was large—comically large—so large, in fact, that his little legs wobbled as he made his way across the temple floor to an enormous gong.

Smudge raised the mallet and gulped. “Here goes nothing.”

He swung delicately—missed entirely—and somehow managed to bong not the gong but himself.

“Oof,” he groaned, rubbing his head as he glared back at the gong, thoroughly unimpressed.

Smudge reassured himself that he had meant to do that—and that it was, after all, an important part of the ceremony.

After a second attempt—this time successful—the mallet connected with a deep, resonant *BOOOONG*.

The sound rolled across the temple floor, rising through Smudge’s sandals, into his legs, and up to his chest. His heart swelled with joy—as if the sound itself carried nothing but happiness.

The walls thrummed, the windows hummed, and far beyond the Sanctuary, the rainforest itself seemed to pause and listen. The call of the gong rippled through the trees, across the rivers, and out into the farthest corners of the jungle.

“What was the gong for, you may be wondering?” Smudge grinned. “Well... the gong meant only one thing: it was time for school—Mandala School.”

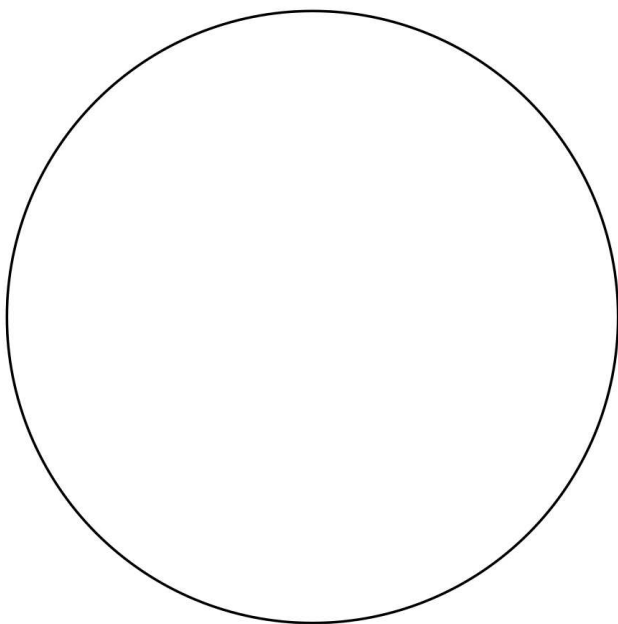
Activity: Bong Your Own Gong

Before Mandala School begins, every student needs a gong to start their day—including you!

- Grab a blank page and a pencil.
- Freehand a big circle in the middle—it can be round, oval, or lopsided. (Smudge would approve of all three.)
- Add decorations: spirals, stars, zigzags, or even tiny animals.
- Colour it however you like—shiny gold, rainbow stripes, or even invisible ink if you're feeling mysterious.



And if you're feeling a bit lazy, no worries—you can use the templates wherever you find them instead. Smudge won't judge you... yet.



Now the fun part: take your pencil, hold it like a mallet, and bong your gong with one good tap.

Make the deepest gong sound you can. Go on—a long, rumbling “BOOOOOONG.” Let it echo through your room, your home, and maybe even your rainforest (if you have one).

Congratulations—you’ve sounded the call. Class has officially begun!

Registration

The gong's last vibrations faded, leaving the Sanctuary of Symmetry perfectly still. Smudge took a deep breath, shuffled to the front of the temple, and stood at his desk.

Atop the desk lay Smudge's most important teaching treasures: his chalk, a box of geometry tools, and a thick leather-bound book.

He admired the swirling patterns on the book's cover for a moment, then slowly opened it. Inside, written in neat columns, were the names of every animal in the rainforest—his brand-new class list. He tapped the wrong end of his pen against the page and frowned. *Now... where are they all?*

Smudge's eyes darted around the temple and landed on a woven basket tucked in the corner. His face brightened as he realised one student was indeed already present.

That student was Biscuit—Smudge's faithful dog. Biscuit was always here—or there—with Smudge.

Smudge cleared his throat and put on his most official teacher voice.

"Biscuit?"

Biscuit sat bolt upright and thrust a paw in the air, as if he'd been waiting seven dog years for this very moment. Then, with perfect timing, he gave a single sharp bark that echoed around the chamber.

Smudge chuckled, ticked Biscuit's name in the register, and nodded with satisfaction.

"Right then," he said proudly. "Present and correct, Biscuit. Present and correct."

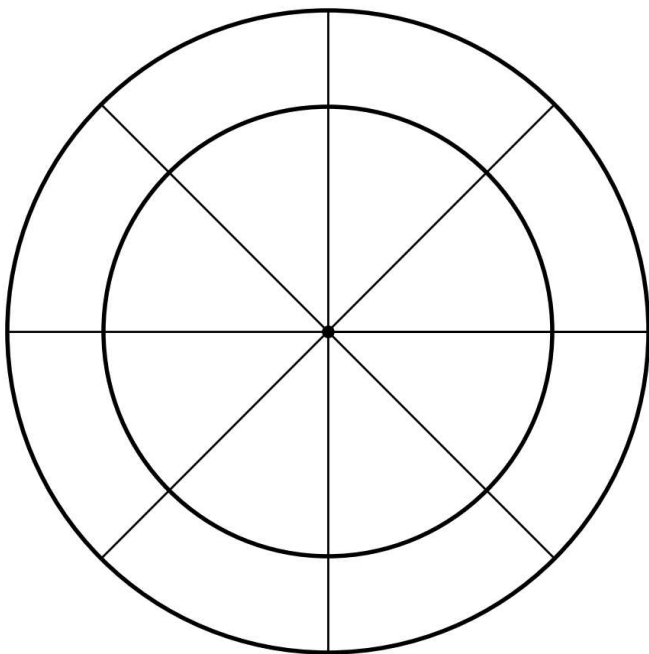
Activity: Mandala Register

Now it's your turn to make a register—but not an ordinary one. This is Mandala School, so your register will also be a piece of art!

- Mark the centre of your page (roughly) with a pencil dot.
- Draw a big circle around it in the middle of your page.
- Draw an even bigger circle around that. The space between them will become your checkbox.
- Draw straight lines through the centre (dot) to divide the circles into slices (like pizza, cake, or anything delicious you're probably thinking about right now).
- Inside each slice, write a name or draw a tiny picture. Each slice is for one classmate. Who do you want to attend?



REGISTRATION



When you're done, you won't just have a register—you'll have a Mandala of Attendance. Everyone different, yet all together in the same circle. That means your class is not just ready... it's in perfect harmony.

Right?

3

Chaos

Smudge sat at his desk. Biscuit sat in his basket. Both very quiet. Too quiet.

Smudge looked at Biscuit. Biscuit looked at Smudge. Smudge raised his eyebrows. Biscuit raised his eyebrows. Then—

Cheep!

From high in the rafters came the tiniest of sounds. A bright little bird tilted its head and chirped again, more aggressively this time.

CHEEP!

Smudge glanced up at the bird, then down at his register. He fumbled with his pen before hurriedly finding the name.

“Okay, okay—check, little angry bird!”

After a few moments of awkward silence together, all three—Smudge, Biscuit, and the little angry bird—turned their heads toward the pitter-patter of teeny-tiny feet.

A small mouse scurried across the tiles, scrambled up a chair leg, and perched proudly on the best seat in the house.

“Check, little mouse!” Smudge called, ticking off another animal.

Then came a raccoon, a deer, and an owl.

“Check, check... check!”

What began as a trickle soon became a flood.

Parrots swooped through the windows like flying rainbows. Jaguars slipped inside like shadows. And the monkeys—of course—bounded in wherever and however they could.

Smudge raced to keep up: “Check, check, check!” His eyebrows climbed higher with each new arrival.

The room was now a wash of squeaks, growls, oinks, and barks.

Luckily for Smudge, he had spent many years learning animal languages... though sometimes it was more a curse than a blessing.

The parrots were terrible gossips, the monkeys couldn’t stop interrupting, and the frogs—well, the frogs were the worst. A single drop of rain and they’d drone on and on and on... and on.

Amongst the commotion, the sloth slumped into a chair at the very back with a heavy sigh. His eyes drooped closed, but at least he had shown up.

“Biscuit,” Smudge said calmly, breaking from his furious checking. “Coffee. For the sloth. Immediately.”

Biscuit ruffed once, then vanished into the kitchen at full tilt.

Smudge returned to his register, but try as he might, he just couldn’t keep up. His eyebrows had reached their limit; he had no choice left.

With a dramatic flourish, he scrawled one giant line across the page:

ALL ANIMALS—CHECK!

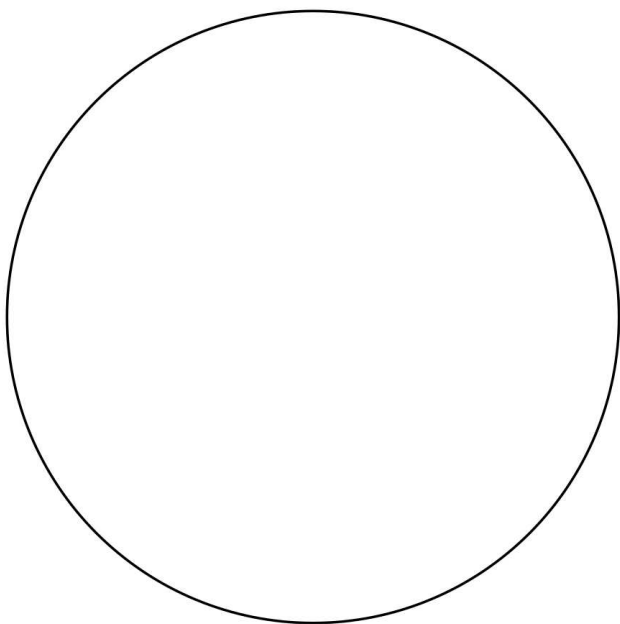
Activity: Circle of Chaos

Smudge can't keep up—but can you? Circle up the silliness before it escapes!

- Draw a large circle on your page.
- Inside, pack it full of animals—squeezed, squashed, tumbling, climbing, and piling wherever they'll fit.
- Let tails tangle with wings, paws press against trunks, and heads pop up at funny angles. The only rule is: everyone must be inside the circle.
- Add decorations in the gaps—spirals, zigzags, stars, or anything else to fill the empty spaces.
- Colour it as wildly as you like.

When you're done, you'll have a noisy, silly, crammed-full circle of life—proof that even the wildest chaos can be tamed by a circle.





Whiskers

Smudge slammed the register shut with a puff of dust and looked extraordinarily pleased with himself.

“All present and correct!” he declared—then quickly backtracked. “Sorry, wait, wait... there’s one more.”

Of course there was.

The latecomer, as always, was Whiskers, the temple cat, who insisted on being fashionably late. She was technically always there, but waited out back, pretending not to be.

Smudge leaned toward the door and gave a comically loud whisper—“Psssst! Whiiiiskers!” That was her signal.

Whiskers glided in from the next room, stepping delicately onto a rolled red carpet. The carpet led to a velvet cushion, placed with mathematical precision—using the golden ratio¹ exactly—because anything less would have been beneath her.

It took her an absolute age to reach it—pausing to admire

¹ A magical little number that shows up everywhere—from seashells and sunflower spirals to temples and paintings. Mathematicians say it’s the secret to perfect balance. Whiskers says it’s simply the only acceptable way to arrange her cushion.

herself in every shiny surface along the way. Upon arrival, she circled the cushion once or twice before curling up gracefully, flicking her tail, and giving a delicate yawn.

“Right then,” said Smudge. It was obviously unacceptable for Whiskers to be lumped under *All Animals*, so he created a special entry in the register. “Whiskers?”

“Rrready,” she purred.

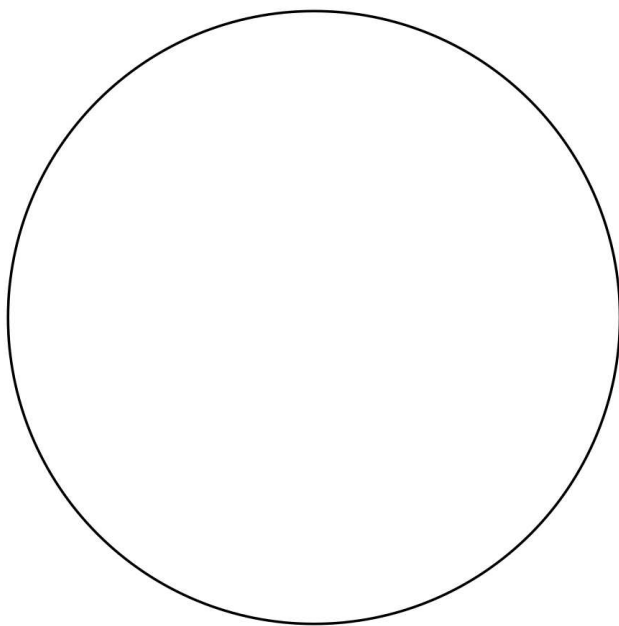
Activity: Whiskers’ Magnificent Entrance

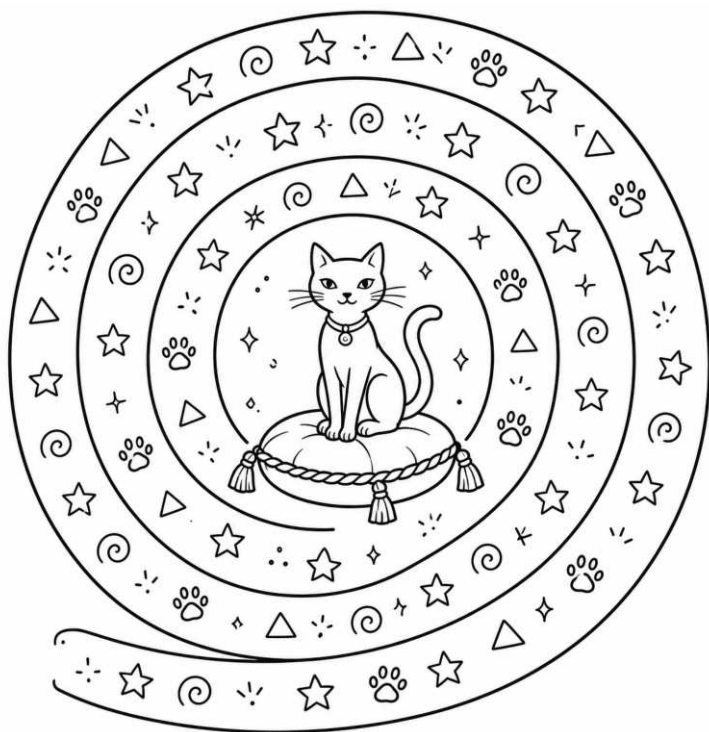
Whiskers could never be expected to stroll in like everyone else—that simply wouldn’t do. Her arrival has to be grand. Can you make it so?

- Start with a fresh, blank page, ready for Whiskers’ grand arrival.
- Draw a long “red carpet” line that spirals from the edge of your page to the very centre.
- At the end, add Whiskers’ cushion—a little circle, a jewel shape, or anything else splendid.
- Decorate the carpet with repeating patterns—triangles, spirals, stars, or paw prints.
- Hold it up—you’ve made a path that flows toward the centre, guiding the eye straight to the star of the show.

Whiskers flicked her tail in approval. “Magnificent,” she purred. “An entrance worthy of me... almost.”

WHISKERS





Mandalas

Smudge stood tall (or as tall as he could manage) at his desk and looked out at the crowd of animals now packed into the Sanctuary of Symmetry.

“Right then,” he said, clapping his hands together. “Welcome—welcome, one and all—to Mandala School. The place to learn everything there is to know about mandalas.”

“What’s a mandala?” the flamingo asked, wasting no time.

It was a good point—and a fair question.

“Straight to it, long-legs!” Smudge said with a smile. He picked up his chalk and drew a big, bold circle on the board.

“The word comes from an ancient language called Sanskrit,” he explained. “And it means... *circle*.”

“A circle? That’s it?” the jaguar scoffed.

“Not just any circle,” Smudge said, puffing out his chest. “A mandala is a circle that can hold patterns, stories, and sometimes the whole universe.”

Gasps fluttered through the room, and the animals erupted in disbelief.

“The whole universe?”

“He didn’t say the whole universe, did he?”

“He did!”

“Is he mad?”

“Smudge has gone mad!”

Smudge pinched the bridge of his nose, breathed deeply, and tried to get back on track.

“Look closely at the walls around you.”

Heads turned. The Sanctuary’s stone walls shimmered with concentric circles—spirals and starbursts rippling outward from tiny centres.

“These,” Smudge explained, “are mandalas. At the very centre is the starting point. It looks like nothing—and it is nothing, just a dot. But from that nothing, everything grows. Rings ripple outward like water, each one carrying infinite potential.”

He pointed to the chalk circle. “You see, a circle has no beginning and no end. There’s no place to start and no place to finish. And that’s why a mandala can hold everything—your family, your friends, your dreams... even the stars above. From the tiniest dot to the widest ring, it’s all connected. The circle—like the cycle—never ends on the page or within you. That’s the magic of mandalas.”

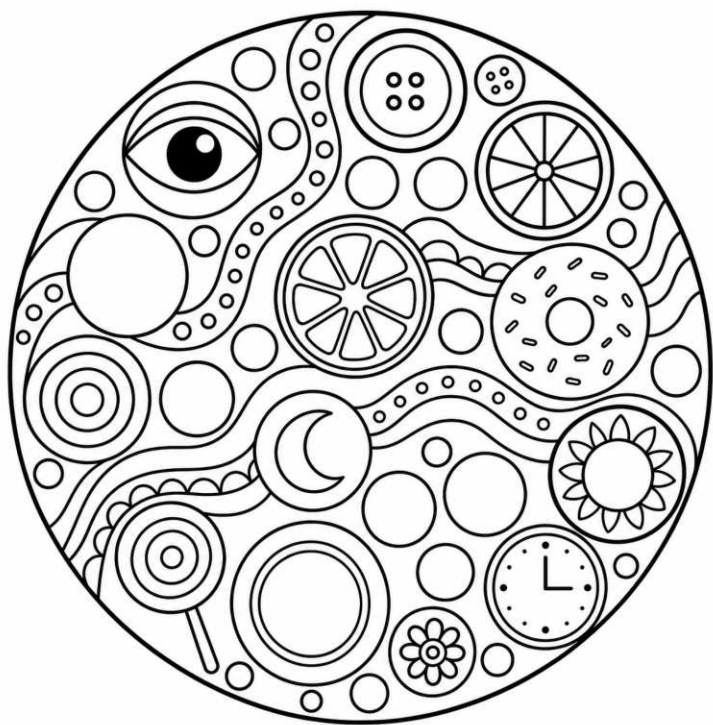
Activity: Spot the Mandala

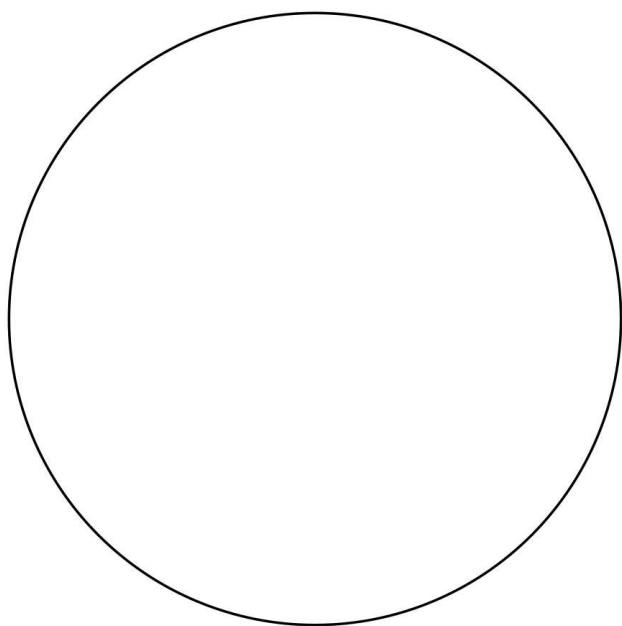
Before we learn to create our own mandalas, let’s train our eyes to see them in the world around us.

- Look around your room or outside a window.
- Spot as many circles as you can: wheels, buttons, plates, the sun, the moon, even your eyes.

- Draw them on a fresh page, one by one, until you've made a collection of circles.
- Enclose them all with one giant circle.
- Join them together with lines or patterns.

Now look again and try to find where each one begins or ends. You can't! That's the magic of circles—just like Smudge said, they go on and on.





6

Reasons

“Why, why, why?” muttered Smudge as he paced up and down in front of the chalkboard.

The animals looked at him a little strangely.

“Why what?” asked the hedgehog, blinking.

Smudge grinned. “Well, my little spiky friend—now we know what mandalas are—why should we make them? You could be out all night spiking people instead!”

Hmm, he had a good point, the hedgehog thought. I do like spiking... especially the monkeys. They were very annoying sometimes.

“Well,” Smudge continued, pointing to a particularly beautiful mandala on the wall, “there are a few very good reasons.”

“First,” said Smudge, “mandalas help us to slow down. Life can be busy, noisy, and messy. But when you draw a mandala—following a circle, round and round—everything suddenly feels... calmer.”

“I do like calm,” said the hedgehog, stretching out his little arms.

“OUCH!” squeaked the mouse beside him after receiving an

accidental spike.

The hedgehog leaned in for an apologetic hug.

“NO!” yelled the mouse, scrambling backwards.

“Careful, Hedgehog—please!” said Smudge gently.

“I apologise,” muttered the hedgehog, folding his arms and legs tightly. “Do continue.”

“Second,” Smudge went on, “mandalas help us to focus. Look at these repeating patterns—dots, triangles, spirals. Your hand makes them, but your mind is the one paying attention. It’s like training your thoughts to walk in a straight line instead of bouncing all over the place like...” Smudge glanced at the monkeys.

They froze—grinning guiltily, scratching their heads with exaggerated innocence.

“Exactly that,” Smudge said.

“And finally,” Smudge continued, sketching a rainbow of spirals, “mandalas are fun. They can be bright and bold, messy and colourful, or neat and tidy—it all depends on the maker.”

“The best bit? Mistakes don’t spoil them—they spark new patterns. A smudge here, a wobble there... and suddenly you’ve invented something brand new.”

Activity: Why Mandalas?

Mandalas can hold meaning as well as beauty. Let’s try one that tells your story.

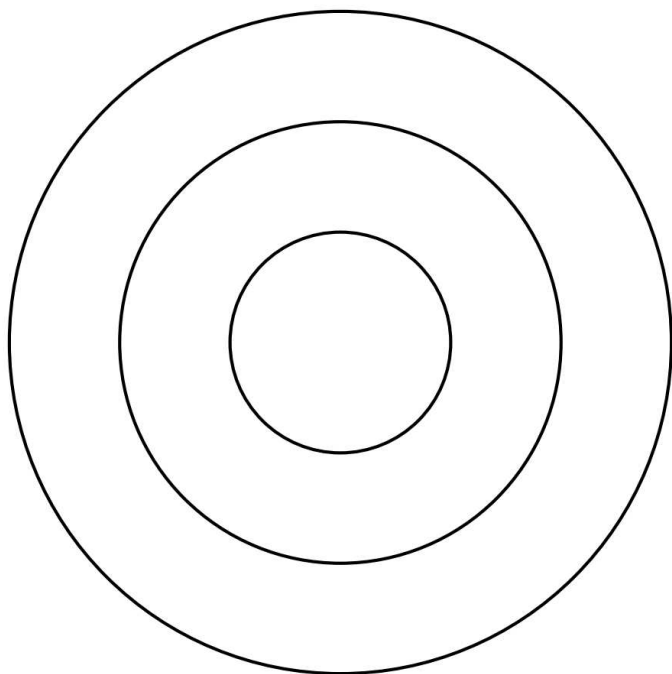
Imagine this mandala as a map of *you*: the centre shows who you are, the middle ring shows what supports you, and the outer ring shows your dreams.

- Draw three circles with the same centre—small, medium,

and large.

- In the centre, draw something that represents you.
- In the middle ring, draw symbols for what helps you most—friends, family, favourite things.
- In the outer ring, draw your dreams: things you'd like to learn, places you'd like to go, or even silly wishes (like unlimited ice cream).
- Add patterns and colours to tie it all together.





Place it centre stage—you've created a mandala that's more than shapes and colours. It's your own story, told through the power of circles: endless, connected, and whole.

Tools

“So, now we know *what* and *why*—next comes *how*. Before we can draw mandalas like true masters, we need to meet our tools... our little companions of imagination! No builder starts without a hammer. No chef without a spoon. And no mandala-maker without...”

Smudge paused in silence. With exaggerated gravity, he reached for his geometry box, set it squarely in the centre of his desk, and patted the lid. After a deep, deliberate breath, he began to open it—slowly, dramatically.

The box disagreed. It popped open with a bang and spewed its contents everywhere.

Out tumbled a jumble of items that clattered and clinked across the floor—pencil shavings, rubber crumbs, paper clips, pen lids, and three mysterious objects that belonged to nobody. Biscuit barked in alarm as a ruler skidded past his paws.

Smudge said nothing. He just looked up at the class.

Whiskers stared back, cool as moonlight, and gave him a look—one that said, “You need to tidy your box, Smudge.”

Smudge nodded meekly, then gathered everything up, one by

one.

“First, the humble **pencil**,” Smudge began. “Always your best friend. Light, neat, and perfect for mistakes; mistakes can be rubbed away, of course.”

To demonstrate, he held up a **rubber** with theatrical wonder, lifting it high like a trophy. The class burst into laughter—Smudge had forgotten he’d doodled a heroic portrait of himself on it, underpants and cape included. He coughed, quickly turned it around, and carried on.

Next came the **ruler**. “Straight lines, neat divisions, tidy patterns. Essential.”

Then the **compass**. Smudge opened it carefully, as if revealing a rare jewel. “This curious contraption draws circles—big ones, small ones, all perfectly round.”

A warm “ooh” rolled around the hall; for many, it was the first compass they’d ever seen. Smudge puffed out his chest, pretending he’d invented it himself.

Then he held up a **pencil sharpener**. “A tiny tool with a big job. Without it, your pencil grows blunt and sulky. Keep it sharp, keep it happy.”

Next, a roll of **tape**. “This keeps your paper from sliding away. Otherwise, your mandala might wander off. Very unprofessional!”

He laid everything neatly on the table and looked around the room.

“These are your tools—your companions, your secret weapons. Treat them kindly, and they will help you make wonders. Mistreat them, and they will disappear down the back of the sofa forevermore.”

Activity: Tool Pledge

Every Mandala Maker cares for their tools. Treat them kindly, and they'll always be ready to create something beautiful. Can you promise to look after yours?

- Take a fresh page and write your pledge: *"I will keep my pencil sharp, my ruler straight, my compass safe, my rubber ready, and my tape untangled."*
- Decorate the page with doodles of each tool—pencil, ruler, compass, rubber, sharpener, and tape.
- Add borders, flourishes, or even tiny mandala patterns around the edges if you like.
- At the bottom, sign your name with pride.

This is your official pledge as a Mandala Maker. Keep it as a reminder: your tools are more than objects—they're companions in creativity.

My Pledge

I, _____
 promise to take care of
 my tools. I will keep my
 pencil sharp, my ruler
 straight, my compass
 safe, my rubber
 ready, and my
 tape untangled.

Signature: _____

The worksheet is framed by a decorative border consisting of a series of small circles, triangles, and diamonds. Inside the border, there are several geometric shapes: four-pointed stars, six-pointed stars, and circles. Various school supplies are illustrated: a pencil, a ruler, a compass, a rubber, a sharpener, and a roll of tape. The title 'My Pledge' is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font.

Canvas

Smudge spread a fresh sheet of paper across his desk and pressed down the corners.

“Every mandala begins with a canvas—simple, white, and full of possibility.”

He stepped back proudly.

The paper sprang to life, curled up like a hedgehog, and slid off the desk like soap in the bathtub.

The hedgehog gave an approving nod.

It drifted all the way to the back and stopped at the sloth’s feet. He blinked—then very slowly picked it up and held it out with a yawn.

“Dropped something,” he said.

Smudge scurried to the back and bowed as he accepted it, hiding a smile at the sloth’s slow-motion, unintentional comedy.

“Thank you. A fine demonstration of teamwork. And that, class, is exactly why we need tape. But first...”

Smudge let the silence hang before rapping the table with his knuckles. *THUNK, THUNK.*

“We need the right surface.”

Surface

Your Stage

“Paper needs a perfect stage, you see. Too soft, and your pencil digs in and tears holes. Too hard, and your compass slips and slides.”

“The best choices,” Smudge continued, “are things like a firm desk, cutting mat, sturdy cardboard, or even a glass table with something slightly softer on top. Just firm enough to hold your tools steady—not so soft they sink, not so hard they slide away.”

Paper

Your Sacred Canvas

Smudge lifted the crisp white sheet again and held it aloft like a sacred scroll.

“Fine paper is wonderful—thick, smooth, and perfect for colouring. But don’t worry if you don’t have any. Practice mandalas can be drawn on any paper at all. Once it’s on your desk, it becomes your sacred canvas.”

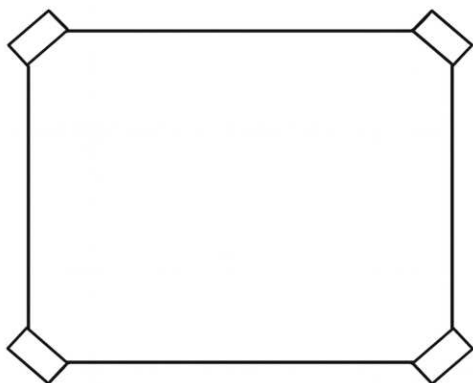
Tape

Keeping It Steady

Still pinning the paper in place with one hand, Smudge unrolled a strip of tape.

“This, my friends, is the secret weapon against sliding paper. A little piece at each corner, and your canvas won’t budge an

inch.”



He pressed the tape to each corner, careful not to snag his sleeve—or his whiskers (the non-cat kind).

“There. No slipping. No spinning. Your mandala will stay exactly where it belongs.”

Finally, Smudge stepped back without mishap. The sheet lay ready: corners pinned, surface smooth, edges held firm. Plain to the eye, yet perfect—nothing more, nothing less—a canvas awaiting creation.

Activity: Prepare Your Sacred Canvas

The canvas might look like an ordinary piece of paper, but with a little care it becomes something magical—a stage where your circles, patterns, and stories come to life.

- Choose a piece of paper. Fancy or plain—either is fine.
- Place it on a surface that's not too soft, not too hard.
- If it slides, tape the corners down gently.

Congratulations! You've prepared your very first **sacred canvas**.
Sit back, look at your work, and take a deep breath. Onwards!

Circles

Smudge turned to the board and attempted to draw a perfect circle with his special chalkboard compass.

SCRRRT! The chalk slipped and wobbled like a squashed potato.

The mouse rolled on the floor, squeaking with laughter. For some reason he found this highly amusing.

“Ha ha ha—squashed potato!” he giggled, pounding the floor with his tiny fists.

Smudge bowed. “Yes, yes—thank you. Very funny. But that, class, was a demonstration of what not to do.”

And, in truth, it really was.

“If your compass technique is wrong, then everything else will go wrong, too.”

The squirrel piped up from the front row. “So... what’s the right technique, then?”

Smudge cracked his knuckles, rubbed out the mess he’d made, and said with great seriousness:

“The compass, my friends, is not just a tool—it’s a circle-maker, a pattern-shaper, a magic wand! But only if you use it properly. Here are the rules...”

- Keep your pencil sharp. A blunt pencil makes lumpy circles.
- Make your pencil and compass points the same length. Otherwise, your circle will wobble like jelly.
- Press gently on the compass needle—not the pencil. It’s the anchor—keep it steady in the centre.
- Twist the top of the compass gently with your fingers. Like turning a key in a lock.
- Glide the pencil as you spin. Don’t push or drag.
- Lean the compass gently along the circle’s path.
- Follow the motion as it goes around.

Smudge demonstrated once more. This time, a perfect circle appeared—absolutely perfect. The animals gasped and clapped, oohed and ahed, wowed and whispered in wonder.

“So—now that you know the secrets of perfect compass technique, let’s put them to use!”

Activity: Circles, Circles, Circles

Part 1 – Circle Practice

Drawing perfect circles is your most important skill, and practice is your greatest teacher (after Smudge).

- Start with a perfectly prepared canvas.
- Set up your compass using Smudge’s techniques.
- Fill the page with circles of many sizes.
- Make a few **concentric** rings (same centre).
- Try **inside-out** (small to large), then **outside-in** (large to small).
- Aim for even, unbroken lines—correct any wobbles with

calmer hands, not harder pressure.

Repeat, refine, improve—practice turns wobbles into wonders.
Small loops today, grand mandalas tomorrow.

Part 2 – Circle Art

Now it's time to turn practice into art. Your page of circles is more than just an exercise—it's an art piece waiting to come alive.

- Look over your circles and imagine what they could become.
- Choose a few to transform—flowers, planets, eyes, bubbles, anything you like.
- Add details, colours, and patterns inside and out.
- Connect circles with lines or shapes.
- Keep going until your page feels full of life—a celebration of every circle you've drawn.

There we go! From practice to perfection and beyond. Sign and date your artwork. Keep it proudly in your room—or frame it and gift it to someone special.



Centred

Smudge quickly prepared a new canvas and tapped the middle with great drama. *Tap, tap, tap.*

“This is where every mandala is born—in the very centre. Without it, your design is like a jungle with no river... or a pancake with no syrup. Absolute chaos!”

The monkeys gasped in horror at the thought of syrup-less pancakes.

“Luckily,” Smudge went on, “finding the centre is easy. Let me show you how.”

Step 1

Prepare a New Canvas

You know the drill—firm surface, crisp paper, taped corners, tools at attention.

Smudge gave the page a ceremonial pat. “No wobbles on my watch. Showtime.”

Step 2

Find the Middle (Top to Bottom)

Smudge held up his ruler like a sword. The animals all stepped back cautiously.

“First, measure the paper from top to bottom. Find the halfway point and make a tiny mark on the left edge and another on the right edge.”

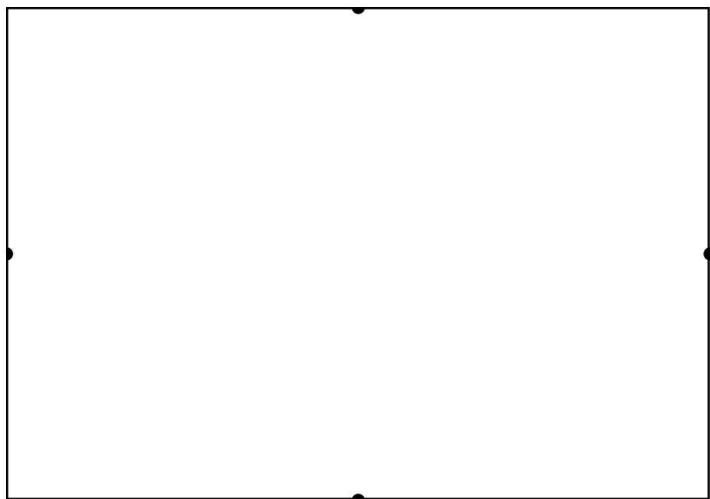


Step 3

Find the Middle (Side to Side)

Smudge squinted and made odd little noises as he concentrated. The animals gave him strange looks, but they were impressed by his craftsmanship.

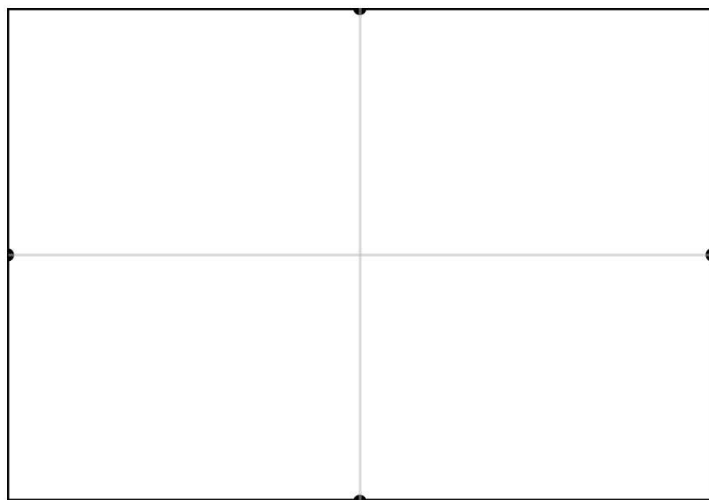
“Next, do the same from side to side: find the halfway point on the top edge and the bottom edge. Make tiny marks.”



Step 4

Draw Your Guidelines

“Now, join the marks with your ruler and light pencil: one straight line across the page for the horizontal—left to right—and one line up and down for the vertical—top to bottom.”



“Where they cross—ta-da! That’s your centre.” Smudge tapped the exact spot.

“This tiny point is the heart of your mandala. Hold it steady, and your circles will flow from it like ripples in water.”

Activity: Get Centred

The centre of your page will become the centre of your mandala, the point everything grows from. Without it, nothing stays balanced. So, can you find it?

- Place your ruler across the paper from top to bottom.
- Mark the halfway point on each edge.
- Do the same from side to side.
- Draw straight vertical and horizontal lines using these marks.
- Where the two lines meet, make a tiny dot.

All done! Step back and see—you've found the very centre. It's ready, balanced, and waiting.

Mini Mandala

“Now that we can use the compass like ninjas—fast, nimble, and agile—we’re ready for our very first *professional* mandala,” Smudge declared.

GRRRRRRROOOOWL!

His stomach interrupted. It rumbled so loudly that the parrots nearly fell off their perches.

“Quickly! It’s nearly lunchtime, and I need a sandwich,” he admitted, patting his belly.

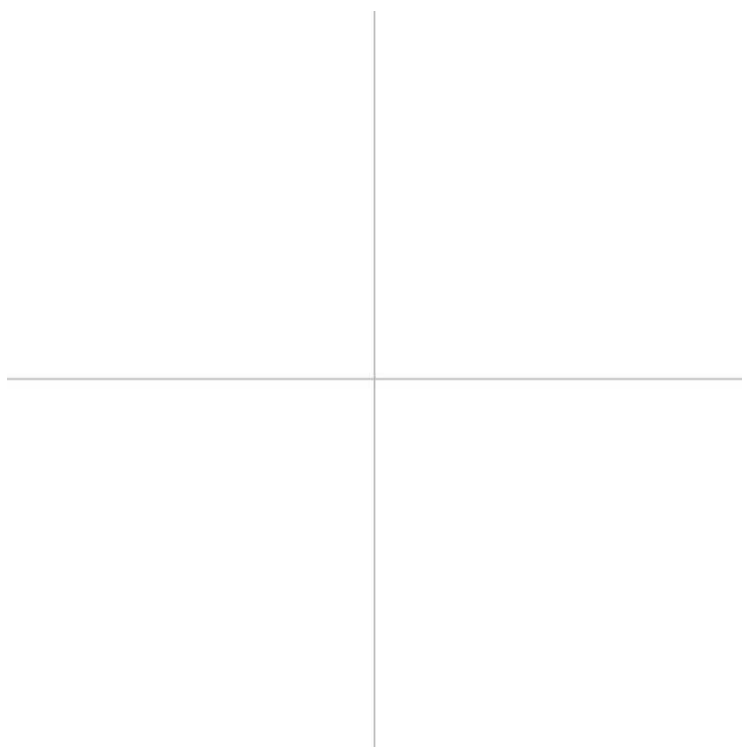
“Let’s start small. Think of this as a warm-up before the big show—a snack-sized mandala. Just a few arcs stacked together, like layers of bread and filling. Bingo!”

Step 1

Set the Stage

Make sure your canvas is prepared, secured, and centred—ready and waiting for more.

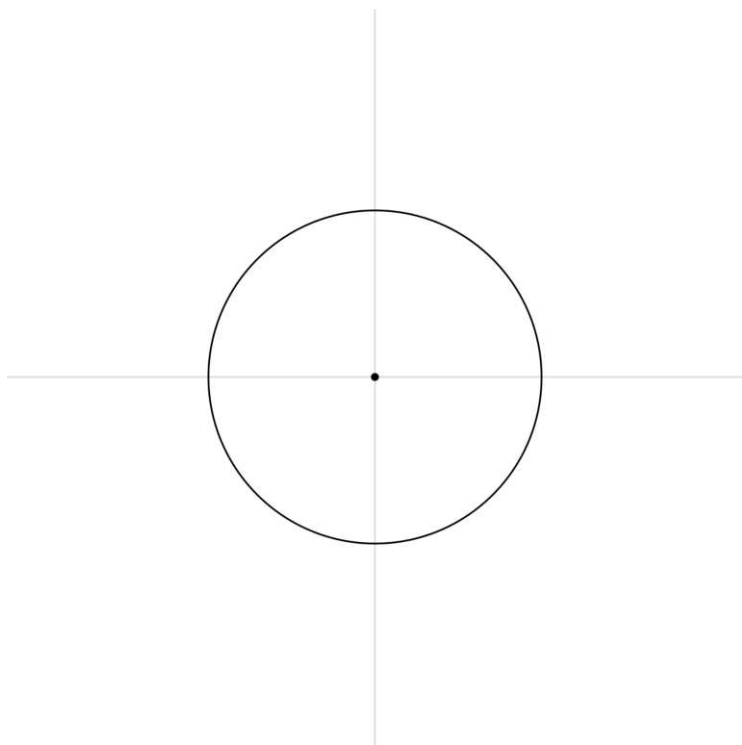
Smudge nodded. “Set, centred, splendid. Onward!”



Step 2

The Centre Circle

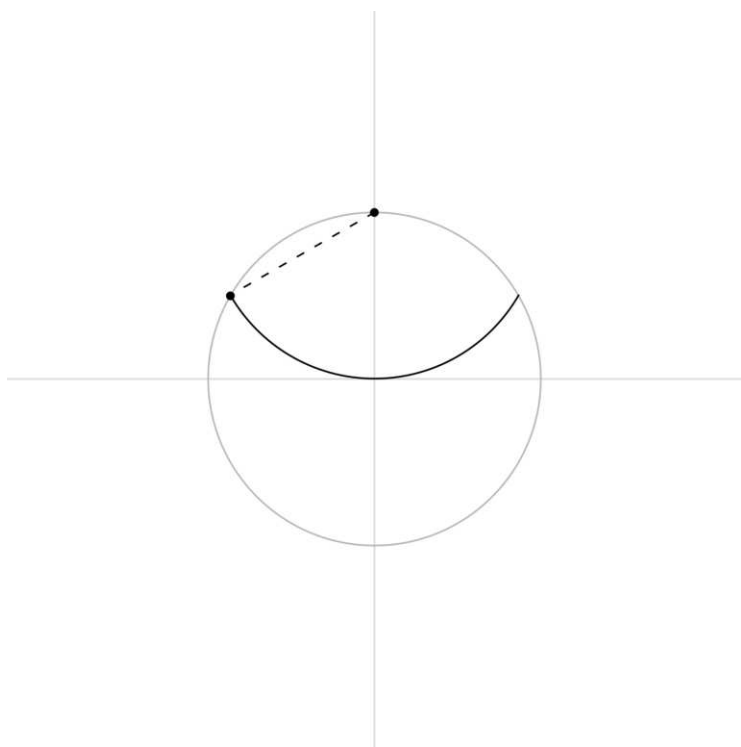
“Compass ready?” Smudge called. “Needle on the centre, pencil stretched outward. Now spin a smooth circle—nice and steady—and give the middle a tap for good measure.”



Step 3

First Petal Edge

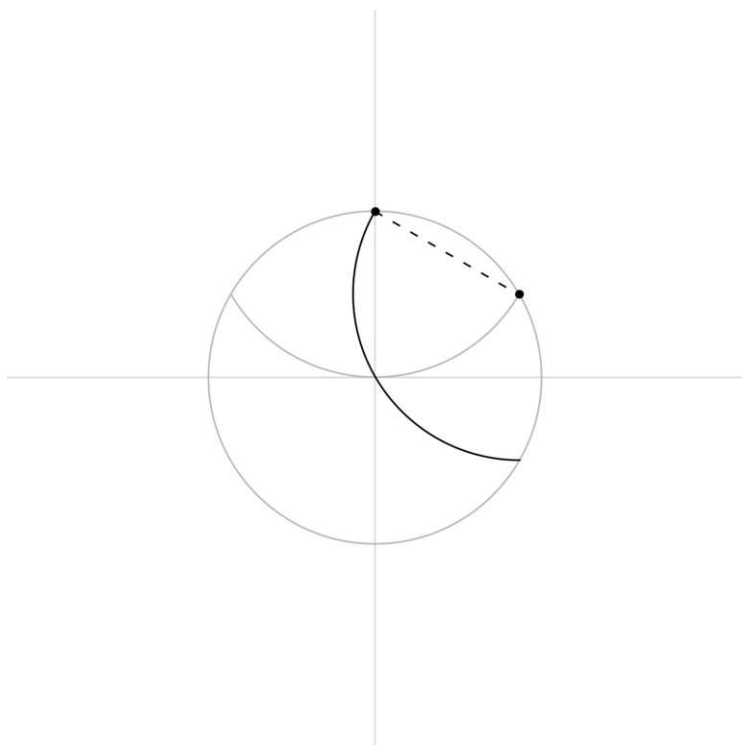
“Time for a petal!” Smudge cheered. He placed his compass on the top crossing (**intersection**)—where the vertical line meets the circle. “Now draw an inside arc.”



Step 4

Second Petal Edge

“See the new spots where the arc meets the circle?” Smudge said. “Hop your compass on one of those and draw another arc.”

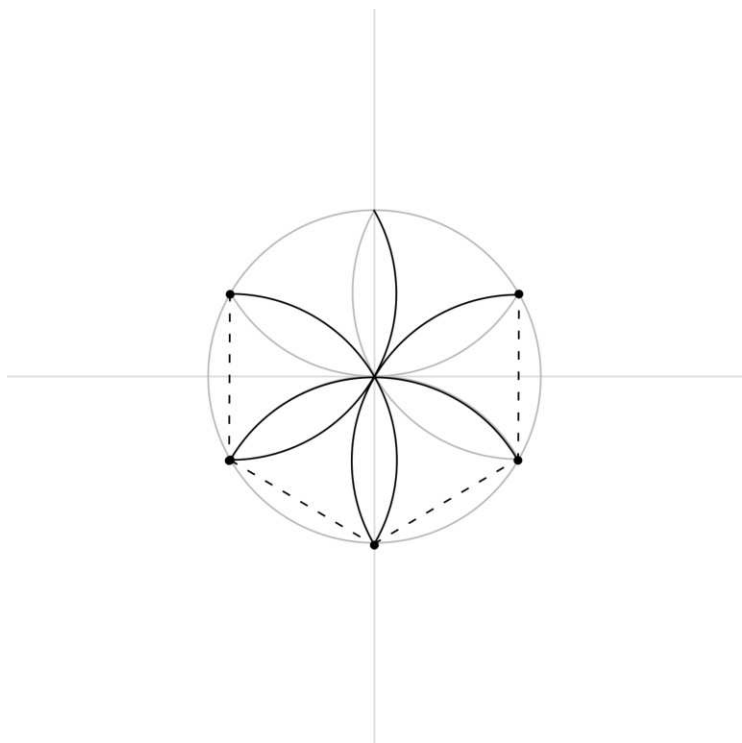


Step 5

Walk It Around

Smudge stepped his compass carefully from one intersection to the next, tracing arcs as he went.

“Walk it, walk it, walk it... and like magic, the petals grow all the way around.”



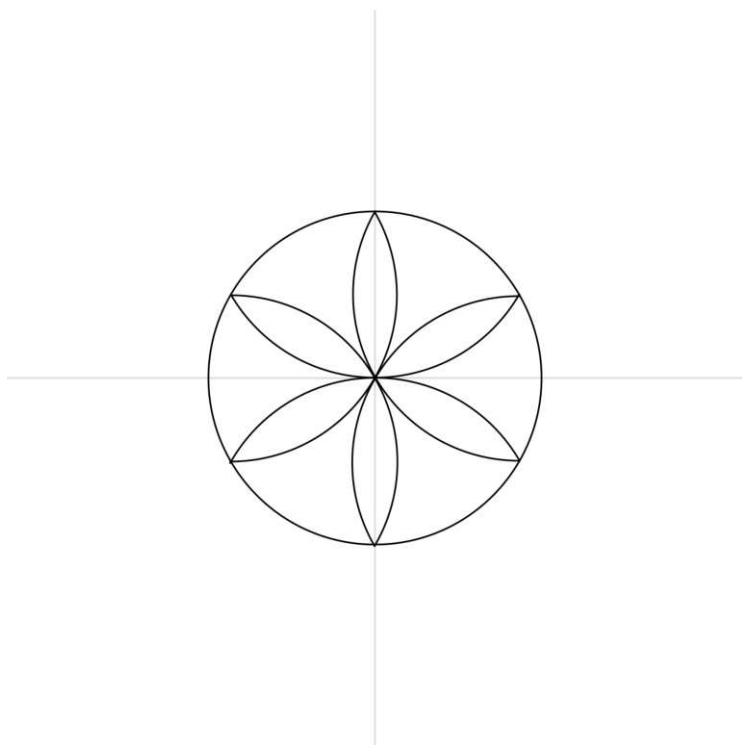
Step 6

Congratulations!

“There you have it—a baby mandala, small but perfectly formed!” Smudge bowed.

“Feel free to applaud yourself. I certainly would.”

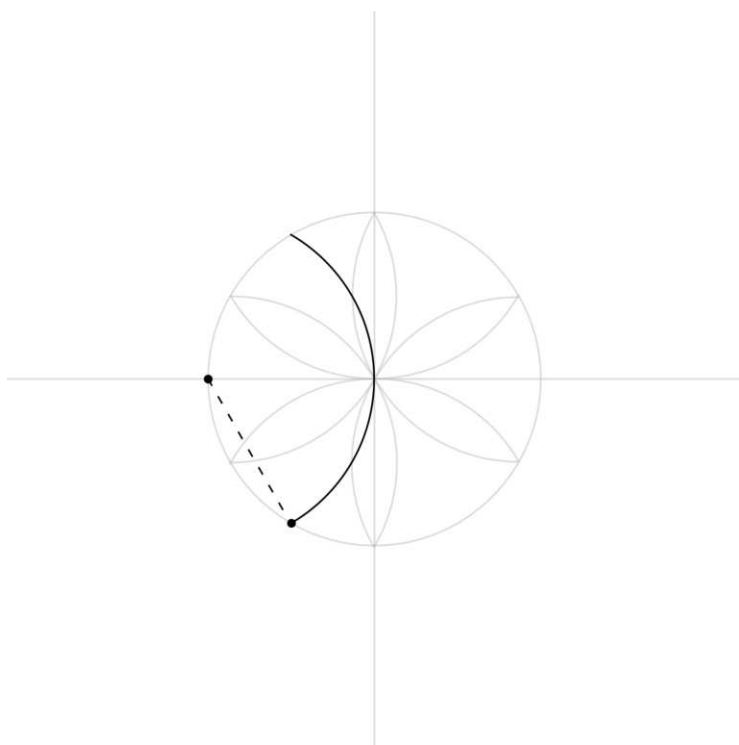
The animals leaned in to admire it—a tiny circle of harmony, neat as a button and full of promise.



Step 7

Go Again

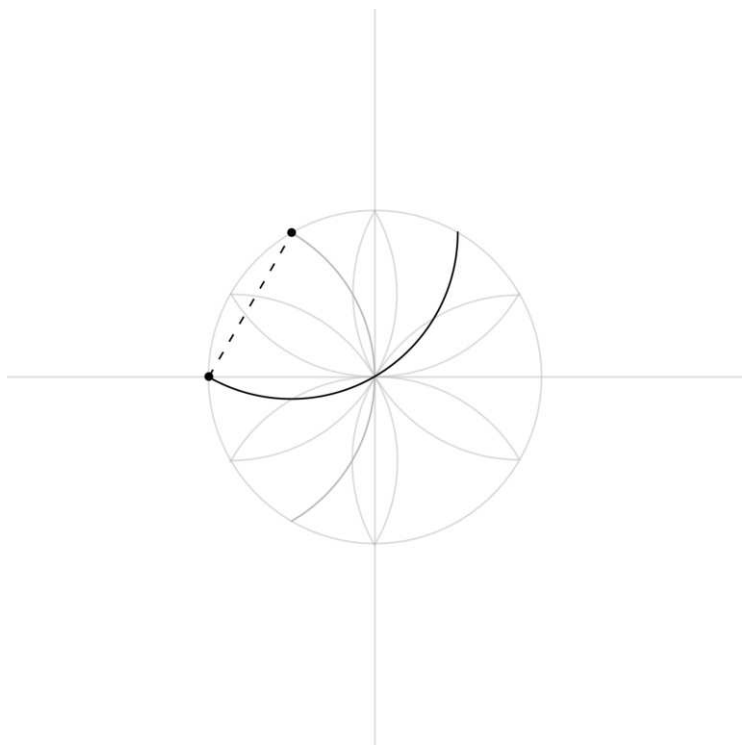
“But wait—there’s more!” Smudge grinned. “Do it all again, but this time start on the side (**intersection**), where the horizontal line meets the circle.”



Step 8

Next Petal Edge

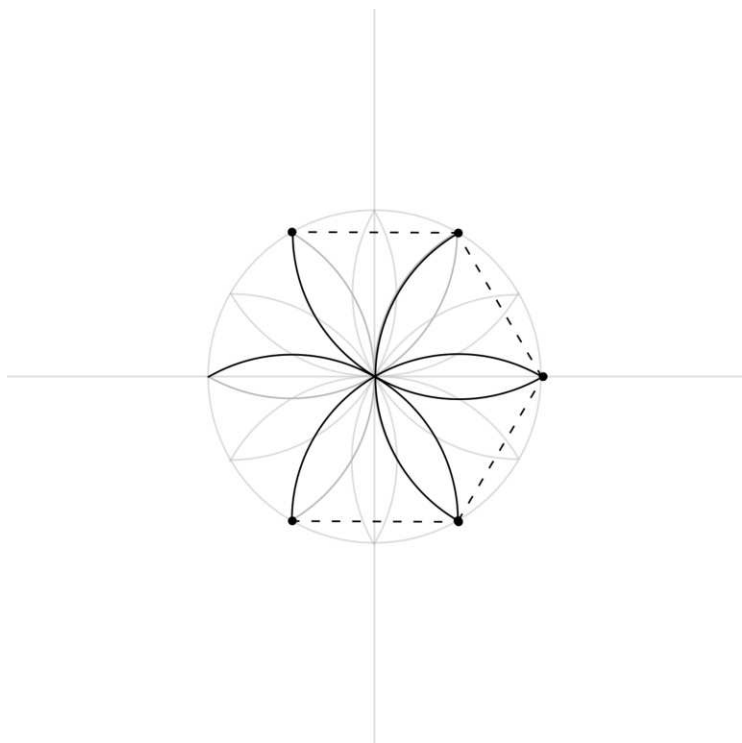
“Move your compass point to a new intersection—right where the new arc meets the circle,” Smudge said. “Now repeat with another inside arc. You know the score!”



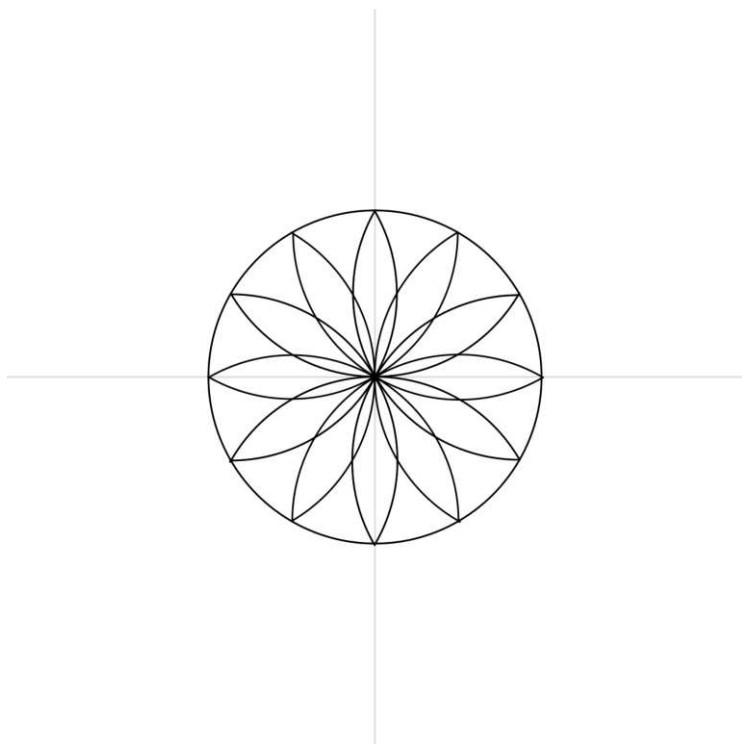
Step 9

Walk It Around

“Now, don’t stop there!” Smudge said. “Keep stepping from one intersection to the next, drawing the same gentle arc each time. Nice and steady—no wobbles!”



“And voilà!” Smudge dusted off his hands. “An even more beautiful baby mandala—small, steady, and bursting with possibilities.”

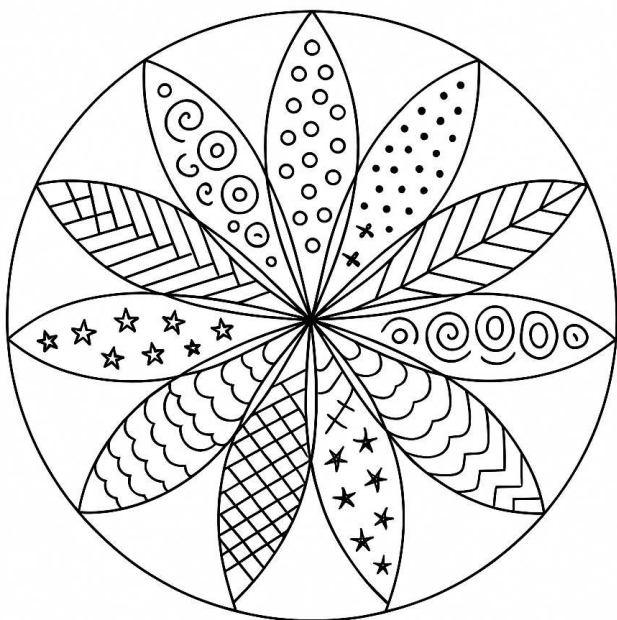


Activity: Baby Mandala

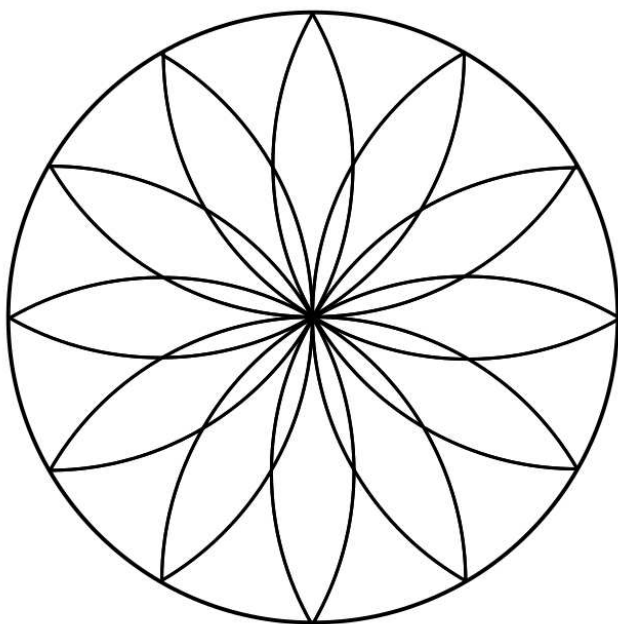
Big mandalas can wait. For now, let's keep it small and simple—just a baby one to get you started. You've watched Smudge; now it's your turn.

- Follow Smudge's steps exactly.
- Centre your page with a vertical and horizontal line.
- Use the centre to draw a perfect circle.
- Start with a vertical intersection and draw arcs all the way around.
- Do the same for a horizontal intersection.
- Decorate the petals however you like—dots, spirals, stripes, or whatever takes your fancy.

Well, look at that! You've made your very first mandala, small but mighty.



MINI MANDALA



Lunchtime

BOOOOONG!

At the back of the hall, the gorilla lowered the mallet with great ceremony. He had been given gong duty—and proved to be quite excellent at timekeeping.

Smudge clapped his hands. “Hurrah! Lunchtime! Lessons pause—sandwiches commence!”

The animals cheered and poured outside into the sunshine. Out came baskets of fruit, leafy greens, nuts, and more bananas than the monkeys knew what to do with.

Even the tiger behaved himself, announcing kindly, “I’ll be vegan for the day.” He promptly sank his teeth into a melon with a growl of surprising delight.

The mouse wasn’t taking any chances—with Whiskers, or the tiger. Perching safely on the hippo’s head seemed like the best option.

Lunchtime at Mandala School was every bit as noisy and colourful as the lessons themselves.

As bellies filled and chatter softened, a gentle hush settled over the clearing.

“What if we made a mandala right now?” the flamingo suggested, her long neck curving like a question mark.

The animals glanced at one another, eyes bright with curiosity. Heads nodded. Tails flicked. Wings rustled.

So they did.

The elephant stepped forward first, planting himself at the very centre—enormous, steady, a living pillar. Around him sat the hippo, tiger, and crocodile, forming a solid middle ring. The butterflies drifted into the next circle, joined by more mice and frogs. Along the outer edge, birds settled—followed by yet more butterflies—until the whole assembly spun into one vast ring of colour and motion.

From above, it was a living mandala—feathers, fur, scales, and smiles arranged in perfect symmetry.

Smudge stood back, eyes shining. “Marvellous,” he whispered. “A mandala made not with pencils, but with paws and claws.”



For a long moment, no one moved—the living mandala seemed too perfect to break. But break it must. There was more work to be done.

Ripples & Rays

BOOOOONG!

The gong sounded again—softer this time—guiding the animals back to their seats. Smudge paused for the last stragglers to shuffle in—and to finish a secret sausage he'd smuggled from lunch—then began.

“Right then,” Smudge said, brushing crumbs from his mouth. “This afternoon, class... the real work begins.”

“Before we can create advanced mandalas, though, you need to understand two important ideas: **ripples** and **rays**. They're the guides that lead the way—and keep your patterns from going astray.”

Smudge rolled up his sleeves. “Watch closely.”

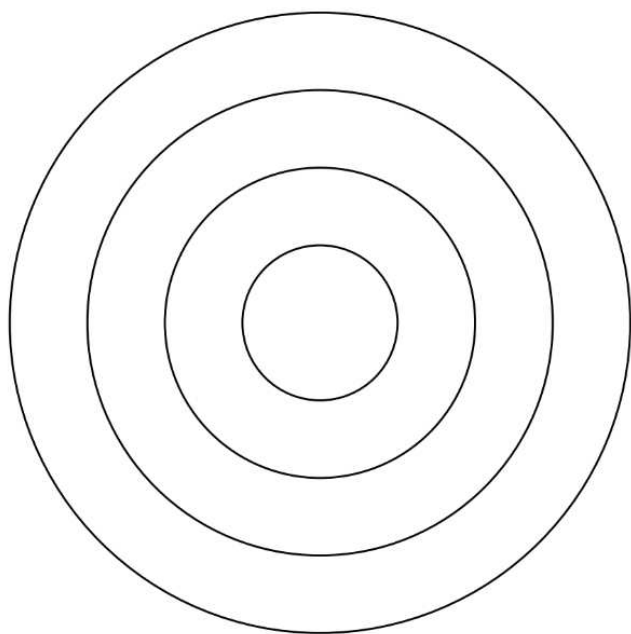
Ripples

Concentric Circles

Smudge drew a circle on the board.

“**Ripples** are circles that spread outward from the centre—just like when you drop a pebble into a pond.”

He drew another, then another, until the board looked like a target.



“These are **concentric** circles. They share the same centre, but each one sits a little further out.

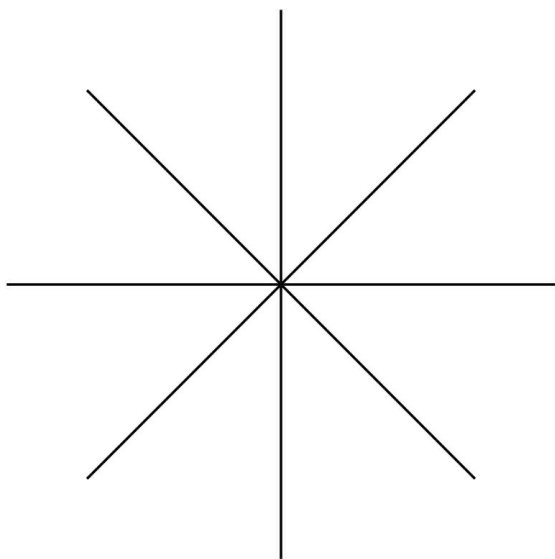
These ripples measure distance from the centre—near, farther, farthest. They help every petal, pattern, and shape stay the same distance and length all the way around.”

Rays

Lines that Shine

Smudge wiped the board clean and drew a line straight through the middle. Then another, and another, all through the same centre—no circles this time. But funnily enough, even though they were all lines, together they looked sort of like a circle.

“**Rays** are lines shooting outward from the centre. Like beams of light... or the spokes of a wheel.”



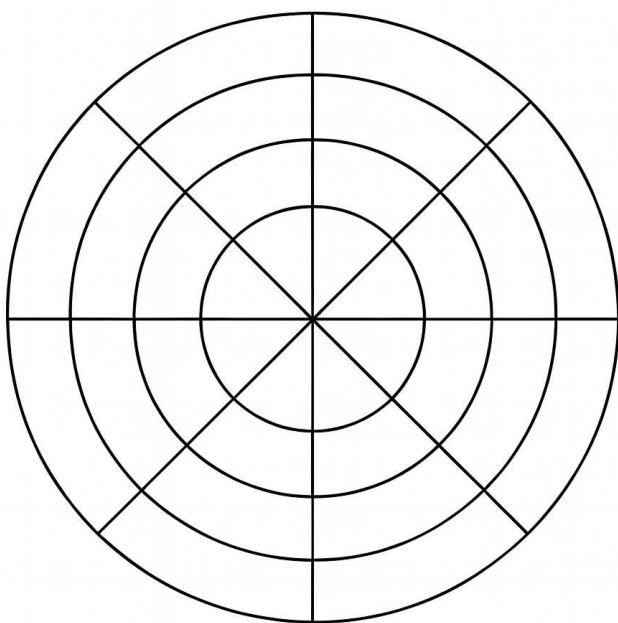
“Rays decide where each petal, pattern, or shape sits—north, south, east, west, or anywhere in between. Imagine standing in the centre and slowly spinning around; wherever you stop is an angle projected outward. Like a lighthouse beam, each ray shines the way, guiding where the patterns fall.”

Ripples + Rays = Order

The Formula of Balance

Smudge overlapped his circles and lines until the board was filled with little slices and boxes.

“Now, look what happens when you use both. Ripples measure distance. Rays measure direction. Together, they form a map—a balanced framework to hold everything in place... to hold your mandala together.”

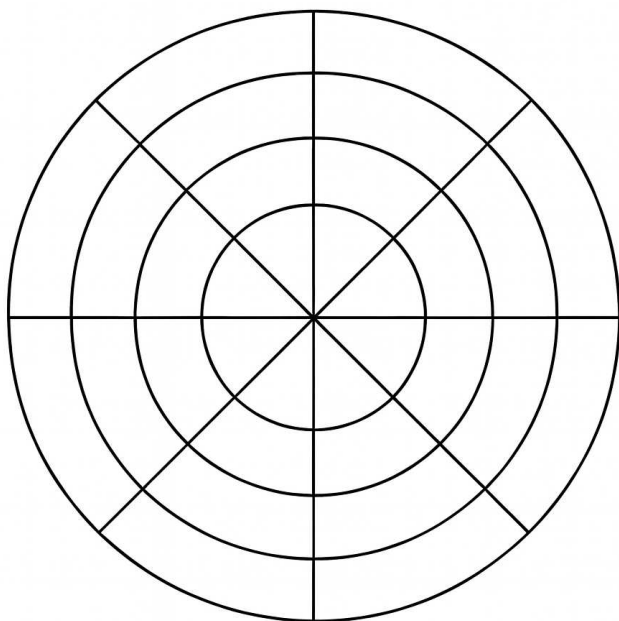


Activity: Ripples and Rays

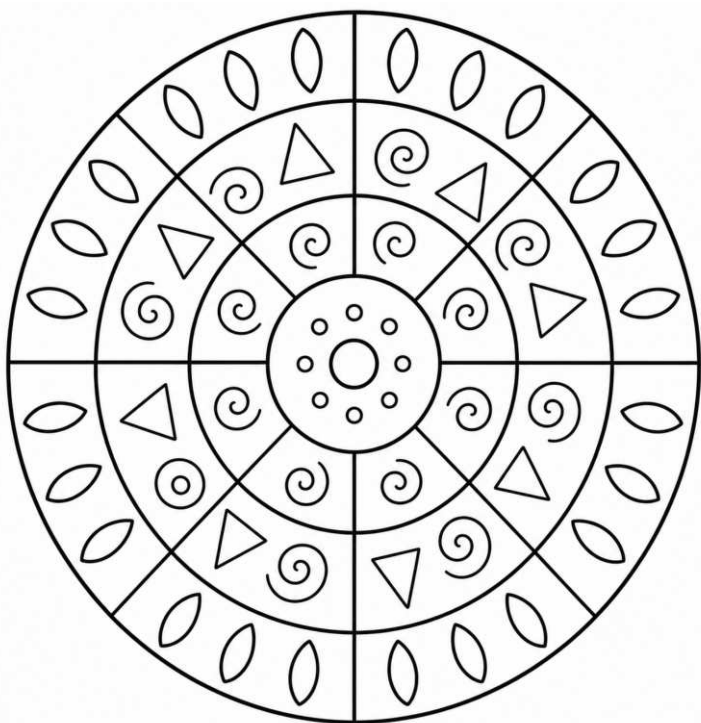
Order makes magic pop—and this time, the ripples and rays are ready for you. All you need to do is bring them to life.

- Use the ripples and rays template for your design.
- Now choose simple shapes or patterns: petals, triangles, curves, or even tiny doodles.
- Repeat them all the way around, using the rays to guide position and the ripples to guide distance.
- Fill every section with care, pattern by pattern, until the whole design feels balanced.

RIPPLES & RAYS



Don't worry about making it perfect. Trust your eyes. Trust your sense of balance. If it looks even, it is even.



The parrots squawked, “Order! Order!”

Smudge grinned. “Correct, parrots. Order. But guess what? We can make it even more ordered.”

“More ordered?!” gasped the animals. “Impossible!”

Smudge raised a finger. “Oh yes, we can. We just need a **magic grid!**”

Magic Grid

“Why is it called a magic grid?” asked the elephant, his trunk curling curiously.

Smudge’s eyes sparkled brighter than ever.

“Wait,” he said as he vanished out back. There was the sound of rummaging... and a crash or two.

Eventually, he reappeared, proudly wearing a magician’s hat. It was far too big and only stayed up thanks to his unusually large ears—but Smudge did enjoy looking the part.

“It’s called the magic grid,” he announced, “because it comes from sacred geometry—nature’s own design. A secret framework that guides all things and lets beauty grow.”

Smudge struck a grand pose in his oversized hat, then quickly hitched it up so he could actually see.

“Would you like me to show you?”

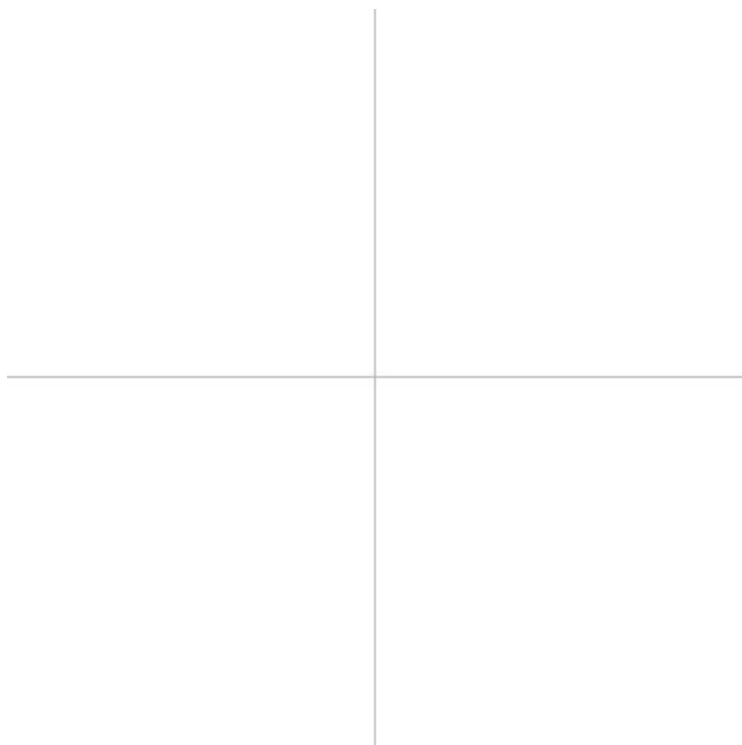
Every animal nodded at once, eyes wide.

“Right then,” Smudge declared. “Let’s build a magic grid!”

Step 1

Set the Stage

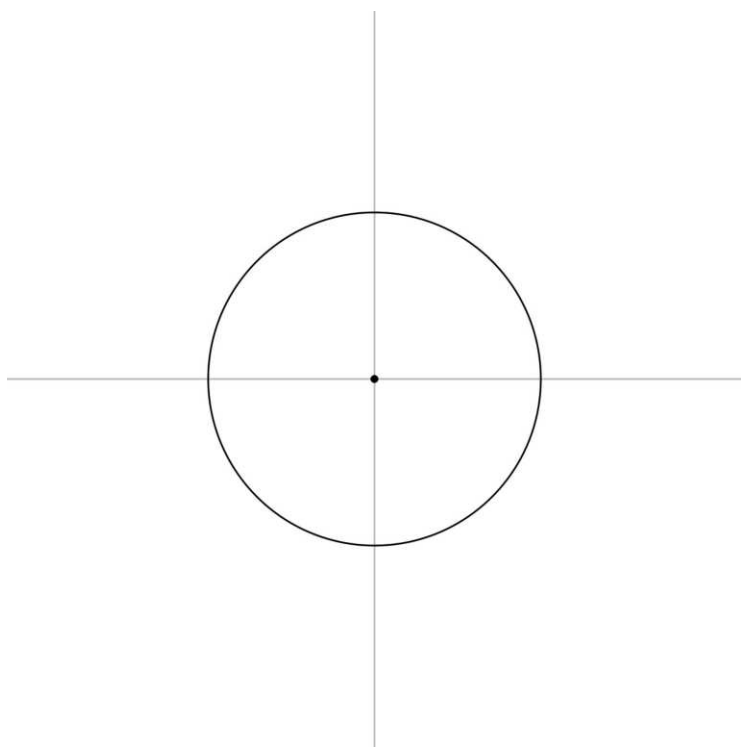
“First,” Smudge said, “prepare a fresh canvas. Draw your cross—vertical and horizontal—then find your centre. Quick as a frog’s tongue!”



Step 2

The First Circle

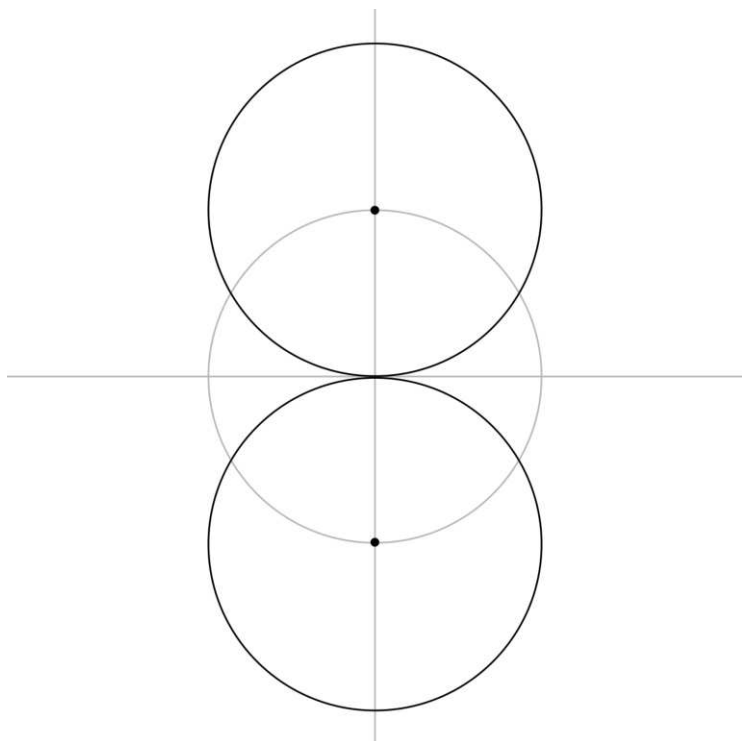
“Place your compass on the centre and draw one strong circle.
Behold! Everything grows from here.”



Step 3

Top and Bottom Circles

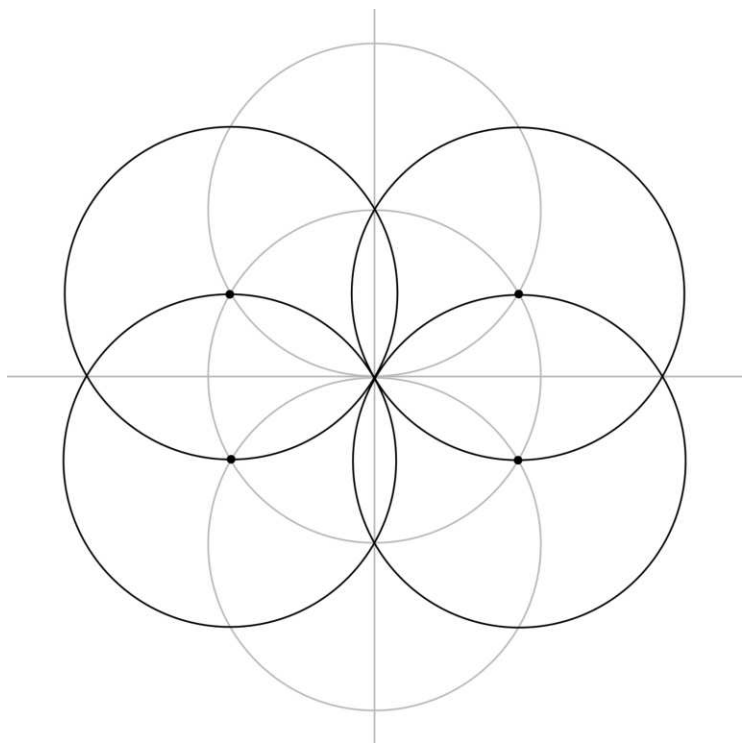
“Keep your compass the same size. Place the point at the very top of the circle, where it intersects the vertical line. Now spin another. Then do the same at the bottom. See? Your circles are making friends!”



Step 4

Let It Bloom

“Now hop your compass to the next crossing, then the next! Each new circle overlaps the last. Keep the size steady, and watch—before long, they’ll bloom into the **Seed of Life**. Beautiful, isn’t it? But it doesn’t stop there... oh no, no, no!”

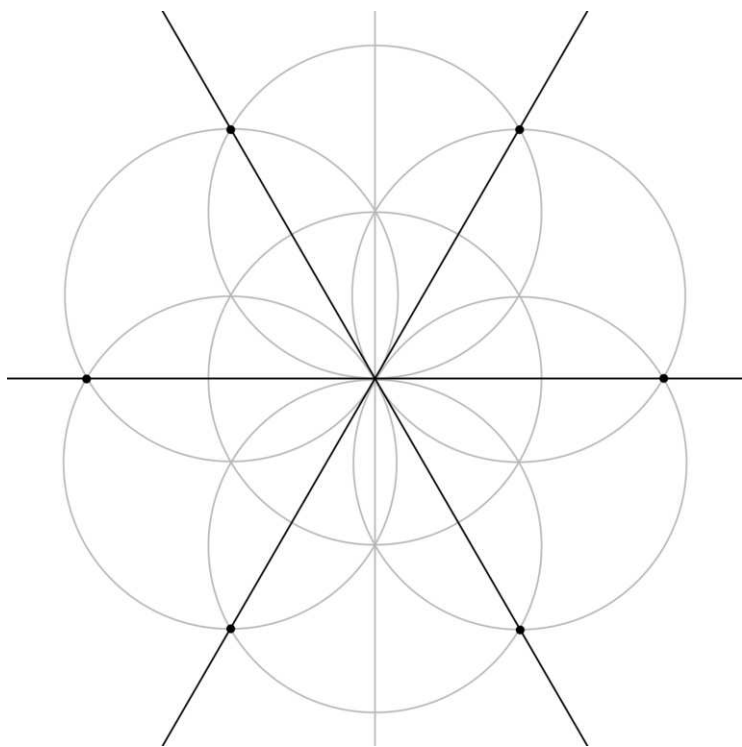


Step 5

Draw the Rays

Smudge picked up his ruler.

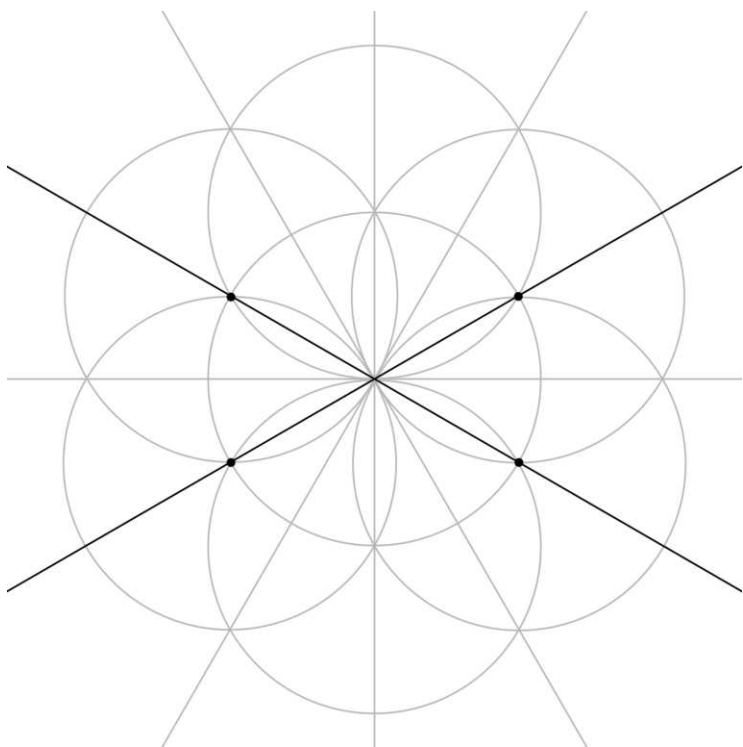
“See where the circles meet around the edge? Those points are your guides. Use your ruler to connect them—all of them. Every line passes through the centre, keeping everything balanced.”



Step 6

Strengthen the Grid

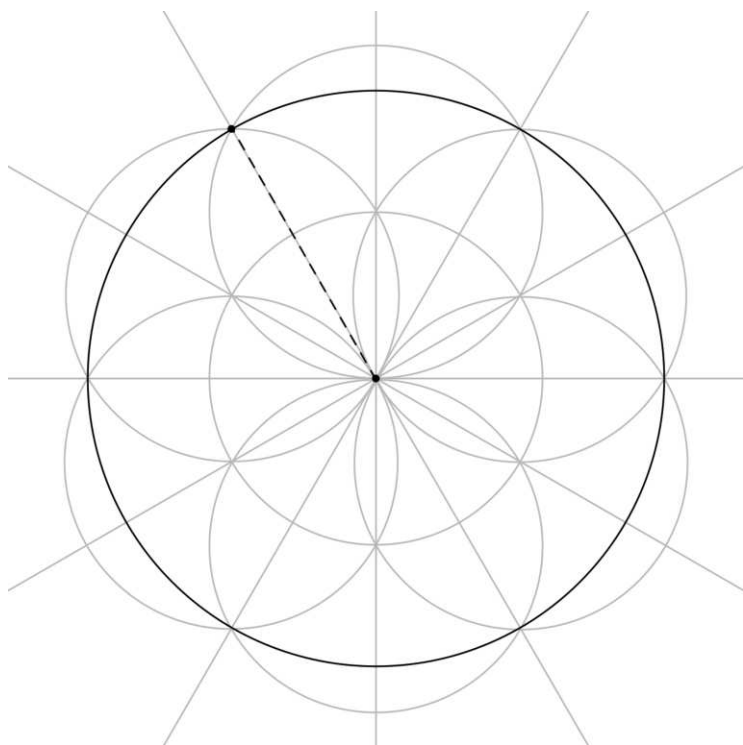
“Now slide your ruler to these inner crossings here and draw even more lines! Each ray makes the grid stronger, steadier, and more balanced—like building the frame of a house.”



Step 7

Add a Ripple

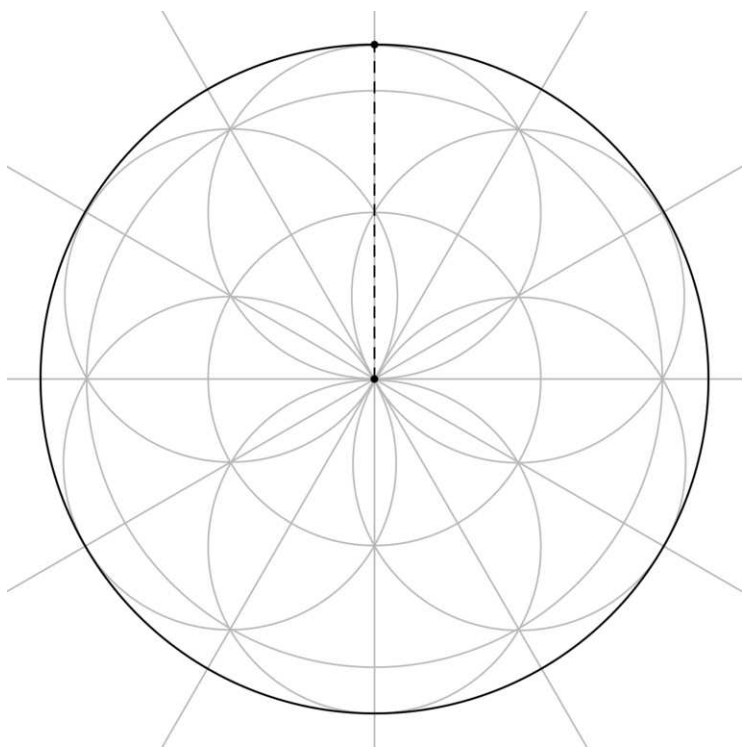
“Now it’s time for some lovely ripples. Set your compass to the centre, open it to the right size—where the outer circles cross. Ready? Spin a ripple!”



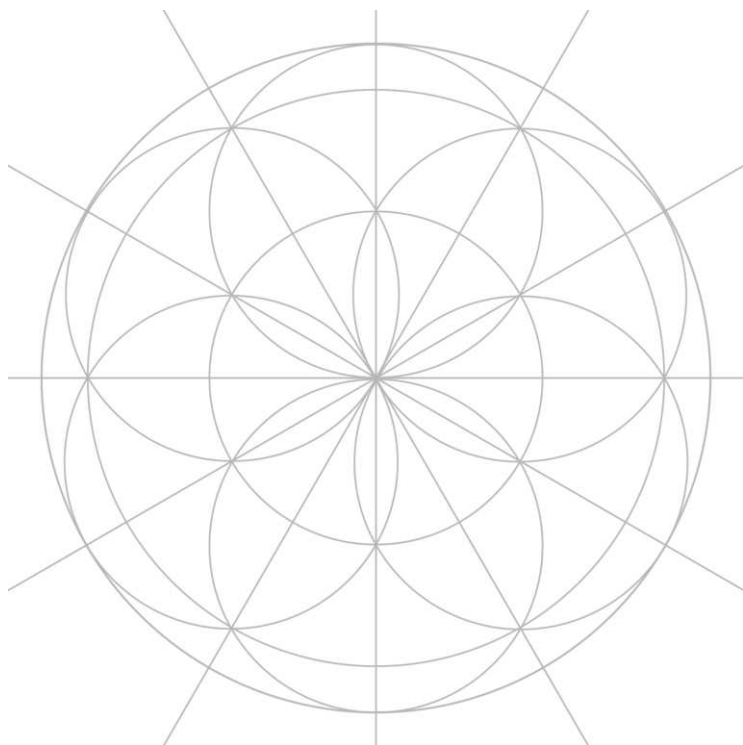
Step 8

And Another

“Now stretch the compass wider still—right to the edge of the outer circles—and spin one final ripple. Enclose the whole design, like a frame around your magic grid.”



“And this,” Smudge declared, sweeping his arms wide, “is your complete magic grid. What an achievement!”



Activity: Magic Grid

The Seed of Life is more than just a pretty pattern—it's the framework from which many mandalas grow. With a few guiding lines, it transforms into Smudge's magic grid. Go on—give it a try.

- Prepare a fresh canvas.
- Draw your vertical and horizontal lines.
- Find the centre.
- Use your compass to grow the Seed of Life—one circle in the middle, six around it.
- Take your ruler and connect opposite points where the circles intersect.

Step back and admire your creation. With it, you're no longer doodling in the dark—you have a map. And from here, the true art begins.

Petals

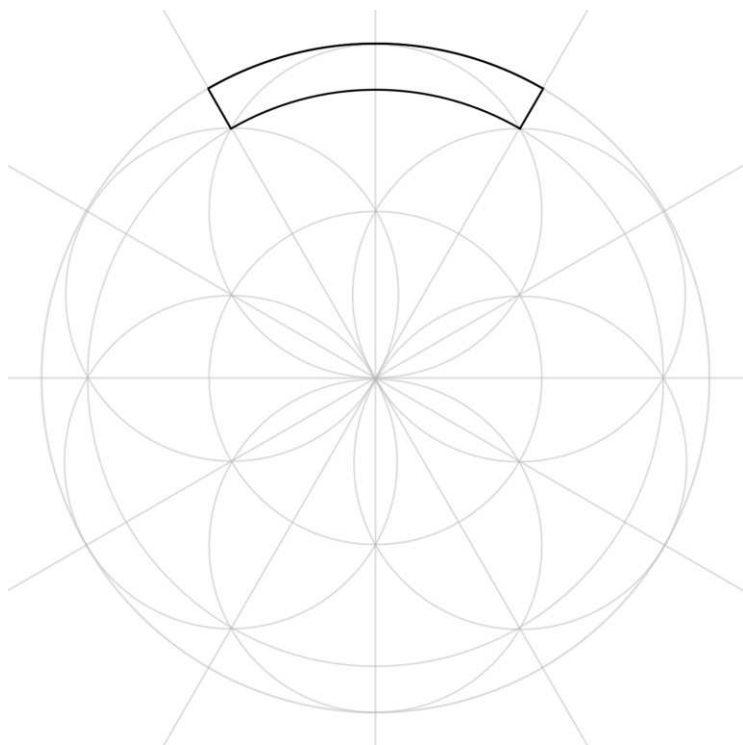
Smudge pointed to the fresh magic grid on the board.

“Now that we have order, beauty will follow,” he declared.

“But before we leap into wild shapes and patterns, we begin with the simplest, most natural form of all—petals. Master the petal, and the rest will follow.”

Smudge tapped a wide, curving box at the very top of the outer ring.

PETALS

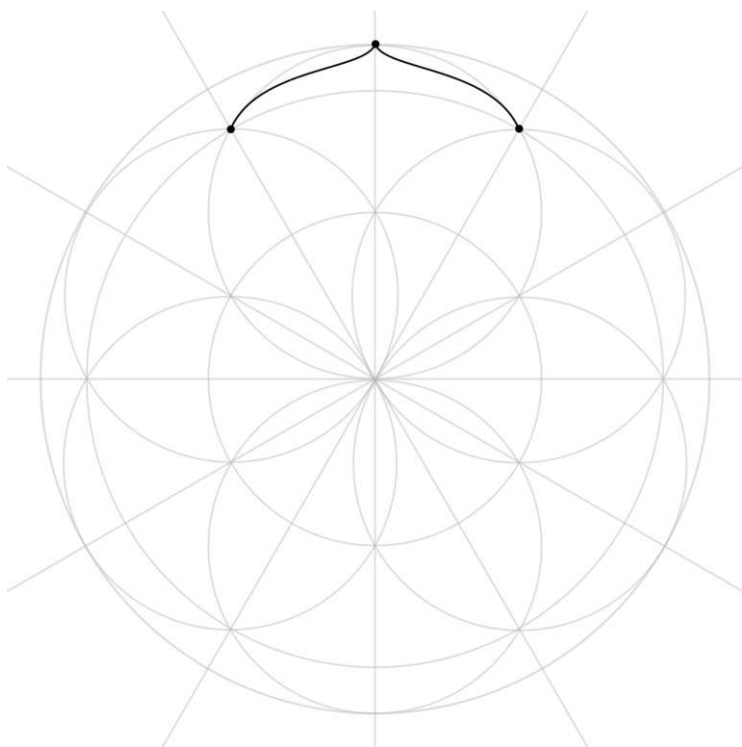


“See this? It’s really two boxes, side by side. We can use them to mirror each side of a petal, pattern, or shape—**left** matching **right**. One bendy box alone would tilt the design, but two keep it perfectly symmetrical. Ready? Let’s do it!”

Step 1

One Petal at a Time

“Draw one careful petal across the top. Let it curve from one point to the next, hugging the circles already in the Seed of Life—use those rings as rails.”

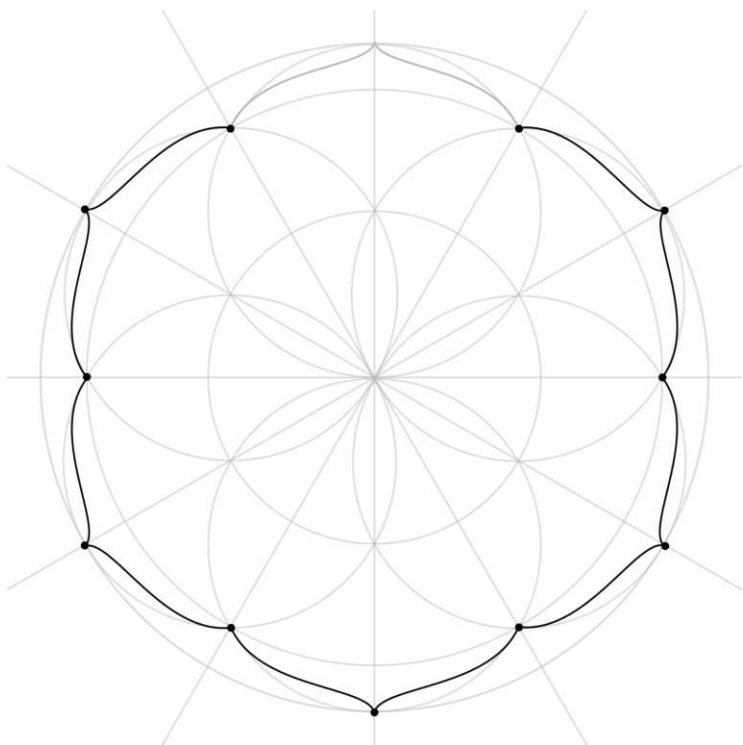


“See? A perfect petal. Get one right, and the rest will fall into place.”

Step 2

Repeat Around the Ripple

“Now,” Smudge continued, “repeat it—same curve, along the same ripple—all the way around.”



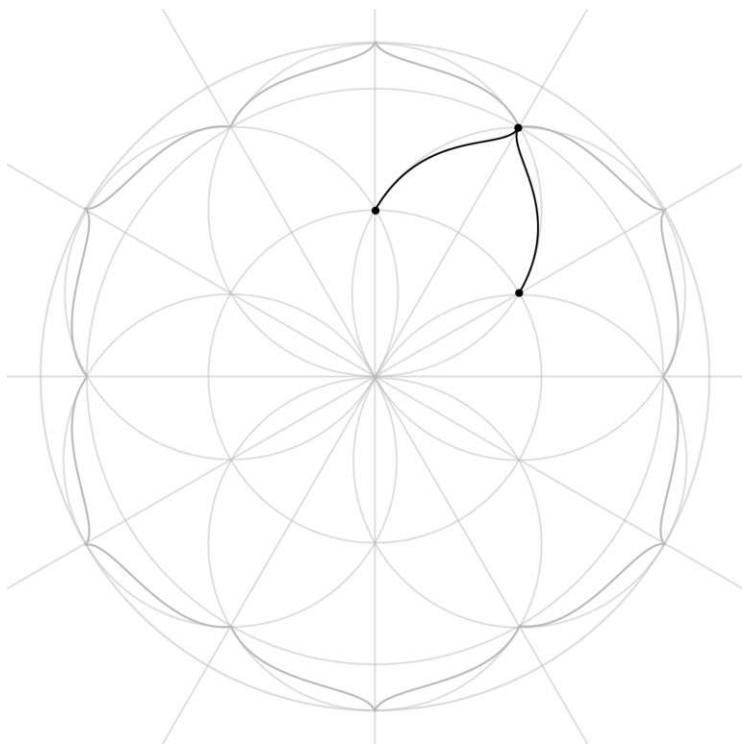
The bees could barely restrain themselves as a flower opened up before their eyes—simple, balanced, beautiful.

Step 3

Inner Petals

Smudge smiled. “Let’s try again—this time on the inside,” he said, tapping a smaller bendy box.

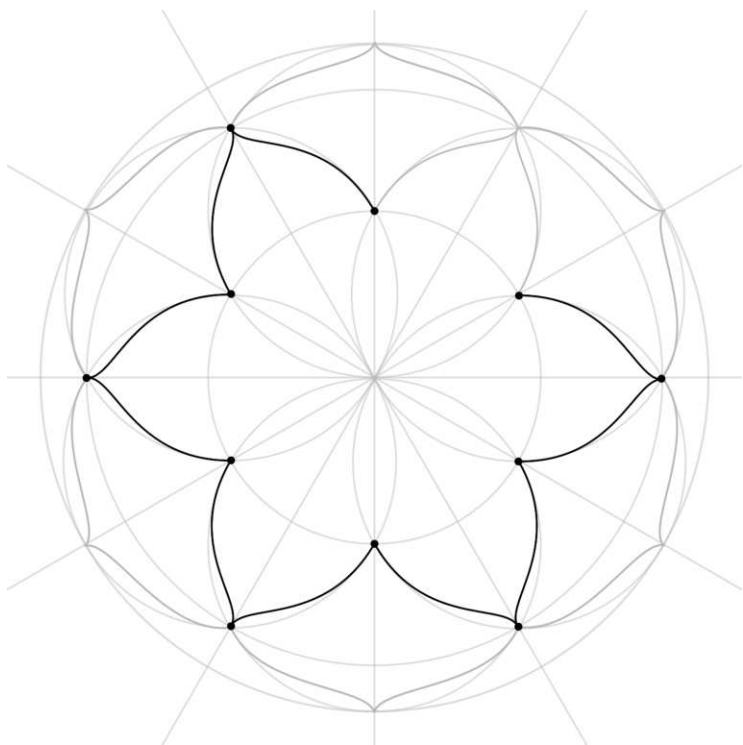
He went to work in the inner boxes and curved another neat little petal, this one just a touch different from the first.



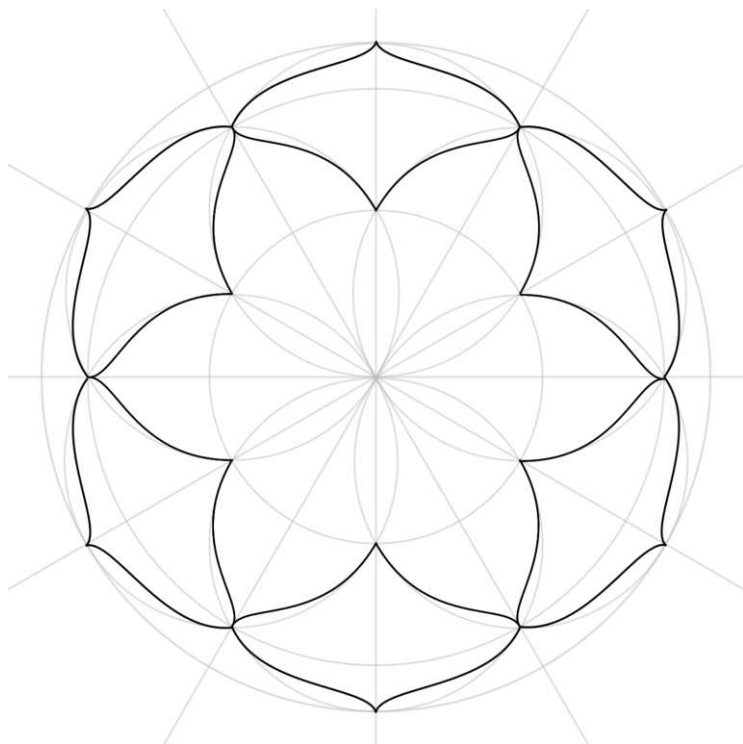
Step 4

Repeat Around the Ripple

“Now,” Smudge said, “repeat it again—same curve, along the same ripple—all the way around.”



“Now you’ve got two rings of petals—one inside, one outside. This is the foundation of so many mandalas: simple, yet powerful.”



The temptation was too much for one bee. It zipped past Smudge’s ear and landed squarely on the chalkboard mandala. After stomping in a tiny circle, it buzzed indignantly, “Flower fraud! No nectar, no pollen—false advertising!”

Smudge gave a sheepish shrug. “Sorry, bee—chalk flowers only. The real ones are outside.”

Activity: Petal Mandala

Petals are perfect—simple curves that bloom into beauty when repeated around a grid. What are you waiting for? Go ahead. Give it a try!

- Start with the magic grid.
- In the outer ring, draw one petal across two boxes.
- When you get it right, repeat it all the way around to form a full flower.
- Do the same again inside—smaller, tighter petals.

With a few curves, petals turn your grid into a balanced, beautiful flower—simple shape, surprising power.

Leaves

The squirrel twitched his whiskers, tail flicking with impatience. His eyes darted between the neat petals on the board and his own empty box.

“Smudge, I don’t want petals. I want a leaf.”

He carefully drew one—but it sat there, lost and tiny inside its box.

“It doesn’t fit,” he groaned. “My leaf is just too small!”

“It’s okay, little squirrel,” Smudge said, kneeling beside him.

“It isn’t too small,” he added kindly. “It just needs a smaller box—and that means its own special ripples.”

The squirrel’s eyes lit up, and a smile spread across his little face.

“My own ripples!” he squeaked. “Squirrel ripples?”

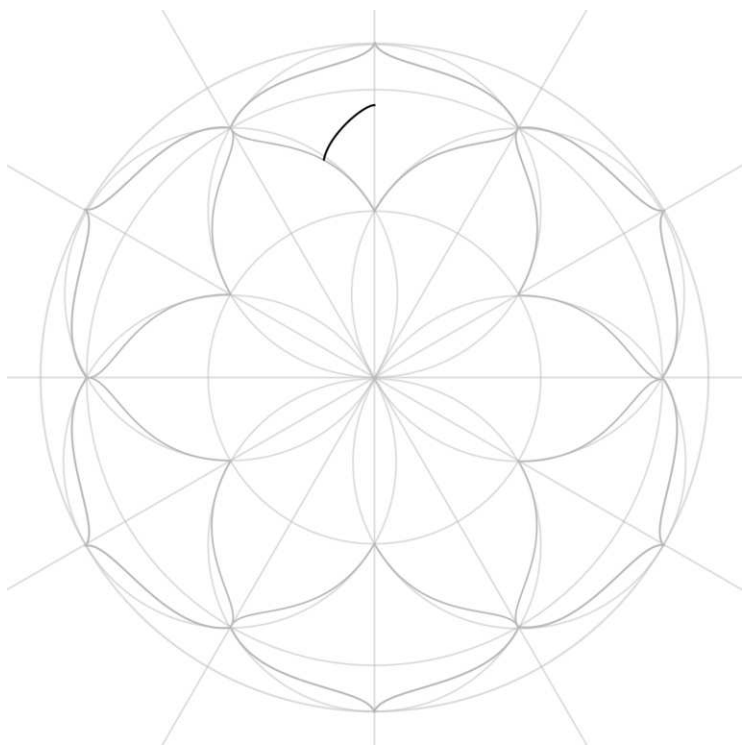
Smudge nodded. “That’s right. Squirrel ripples. Special ripples for the tops and tails of your little leaf.”

“Here, let me show you,” said Smudge, walking back to the board.

Step 1

Draw Your Leaf

“Start by drawing your leaf outline—just one side—inside a bigger bendy box,” Smudge instructed.

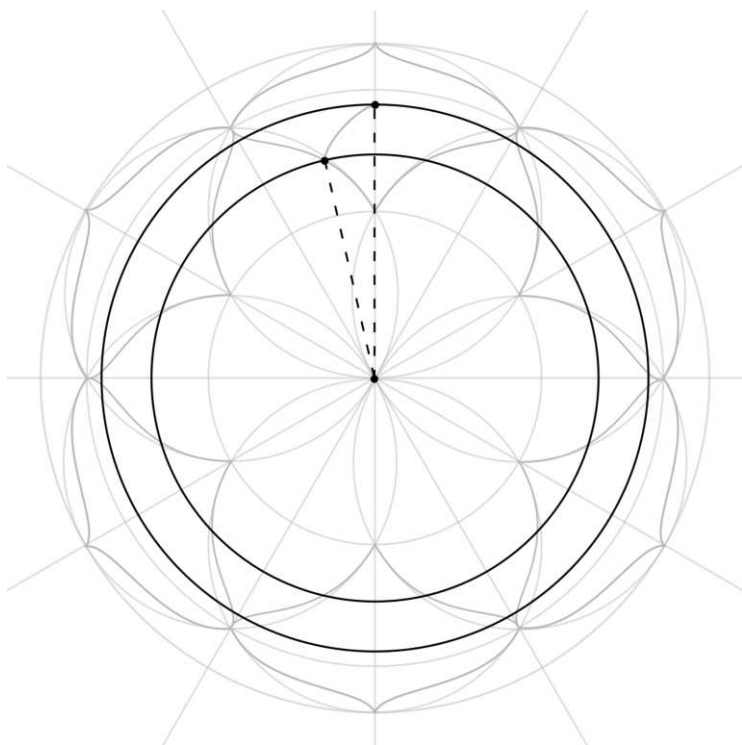


Step 2

Add Ripple Guides

“Now take your compass,” Smudge said. “Set the needle in the centre and stretch the pencil to the base of your leaf. Spin it around—that’s your **first guide ripple**. Got it? Good!

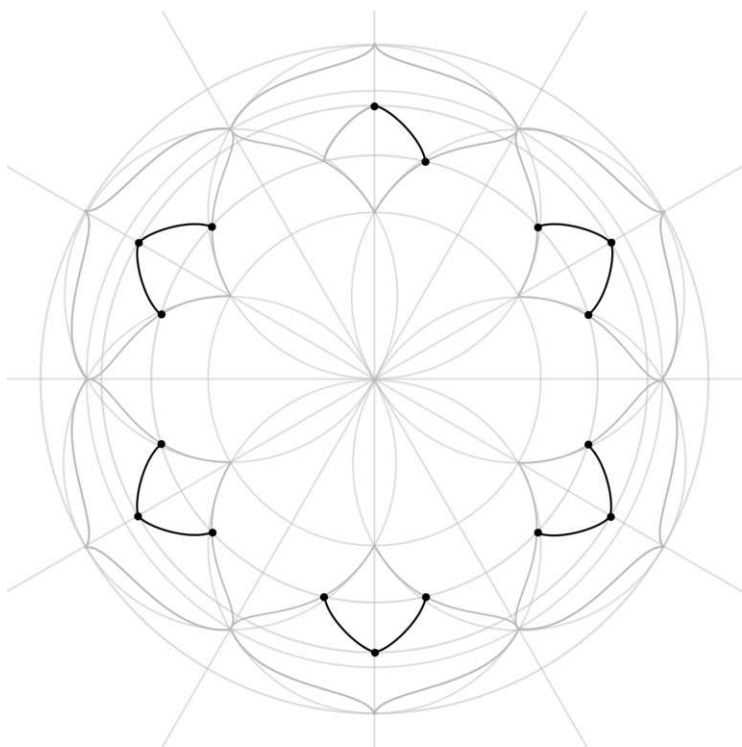
Now do the same for the tip of your leaf—that gives you a **second guide ripple**.”



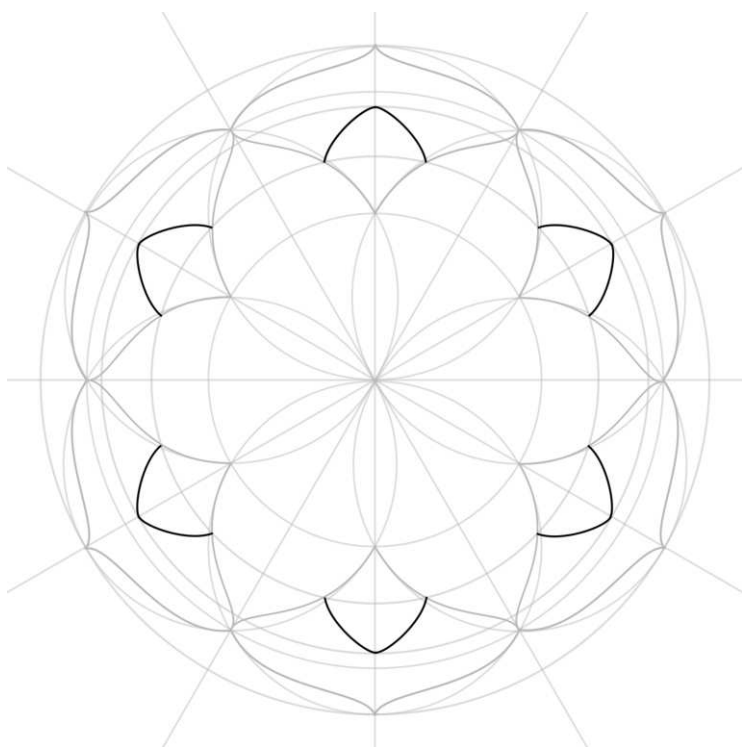
Step 3

Repeat with the Guides

“Now,” Smudge said, “use the two guide ripples to keep your leaf steady. Where the ripples touch the same points in every slice, that’s where your leaf begins and ends.



Copy the same curve between them again and again, all the way around the circle. Soon, one little leaf becomes a whole ring of little leaves—each one growing from the same base and reaching the same tip.”



The squirrel’s tail quivered with delight. “This is better than nuts!”

Smudge grinned. “That’s the magic of **guide ripples**—give even the smallest (or largest) shape the right space, and it can

grow into something beautiful.”

Activity: Squirrel Ripples

Some shapes look too small, too large, or too awkward at first—but that doesn’t mean they can’t happen. With a little help, they can grow into something wonderful.

- Continue on your magic grid from the last chapter.
- In one box, sketch one side of a single leaf.
- Add a guide ripple at the base to show where your leaf begins.
- Add another guide ripple at the leaf tip to show where it ends.
- Use the ripples as rails and repeat the same leaf in every slice.

Smudge juggled two pieces of chalk before catching them with a flourish. “Class, remember—no shape is too big, too small, or too weird! With a little guidance, even the wildest idea can grow into something extraordinary.”

Little Helpers

The toucan tilted his head, beak pointing sideways. “Smudge, I want a petal inside a petal.”

“Awkward!” muttered Whiskers, rolling her eyes.

“But the gaps between the rays are too wide,” the toucan harrumphed.

Smudge scratched his head. “Not to worry. We can do anything if we put our minds to it. Show me what you mean.”

The toucan nodded and traced a petal-within-a-petal.

Smudge tapped his chin... tapped again... and then—*ping!*—an idea struck.

“Easy peasy! We just need... a **helper circle.**”

“A helper circle?” the toucan echoed.

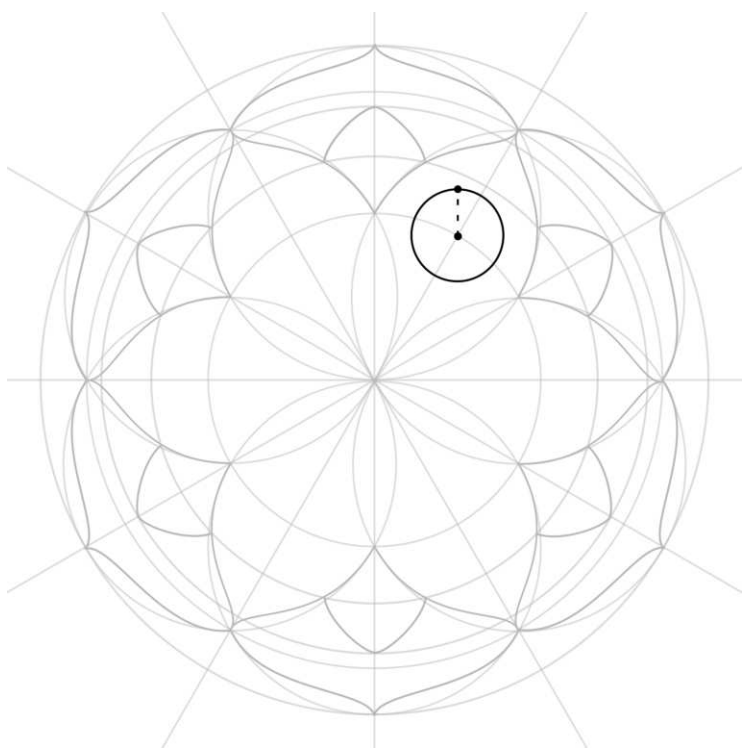
“Yes, a helper circle!” Smudge cried, hopping back to the board with a bounce of excitement.

“Rays set direction and width. But sometimes a shape won’t sit neatly between them. That’s when a helper circle steps in. It gives us any width we want—even if no ray is there to guide us. They’re actually very simple—but much clearer once you see them in action. Shall we?”

Step 1

Position the Circle

“The trick is simple,” Smudge said. “Always centre your helper circle where a ray meets a ripple. That way everything stays consistent and repeats in just the right spots, all the way around. So—compass point on an intersection, stretch the pencil as wide as you need, and draw a neat helper circle.”

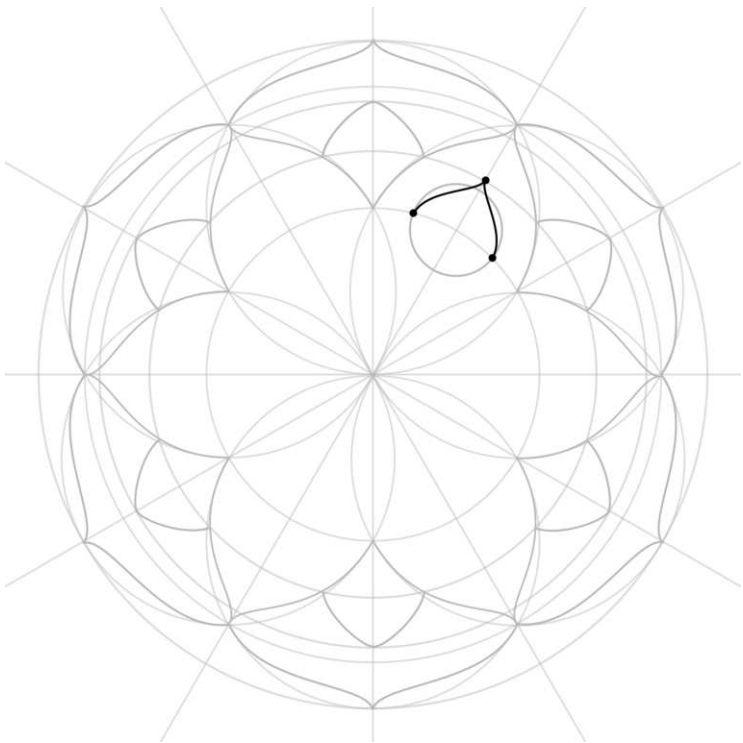


Step 2

Sketch the Petal

“Now,” Smudge said, “let the helper circle do the work.”

Mark two points on the helper circle and one on the nearest ripple (or draw a new one if needed). Connect them together with nice curves to create your petal.

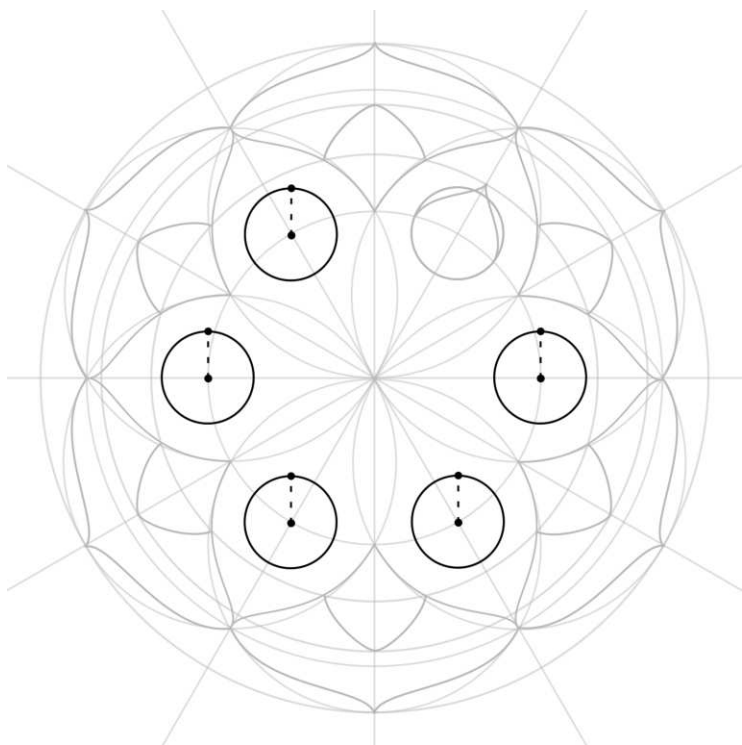


Step 3

Repeat

Smudge grinned, twirling his chalk. “One petal won’t get us far, will it? So let’s make more!”

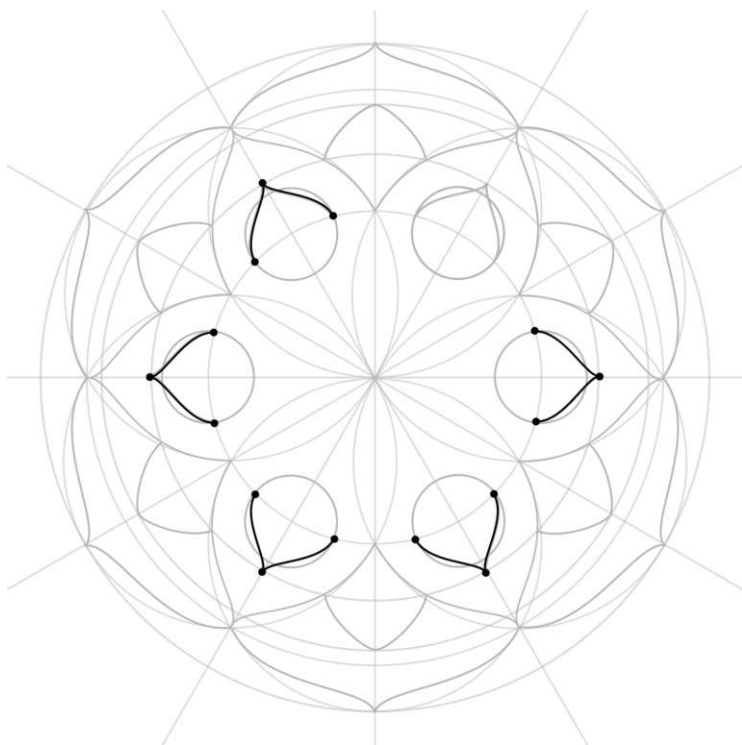
Move around the mandala grid, drawing helper circles at equivalent ray-and-ripple crossings. Each one should match the first, so your petals repeat evenly.



Step 4

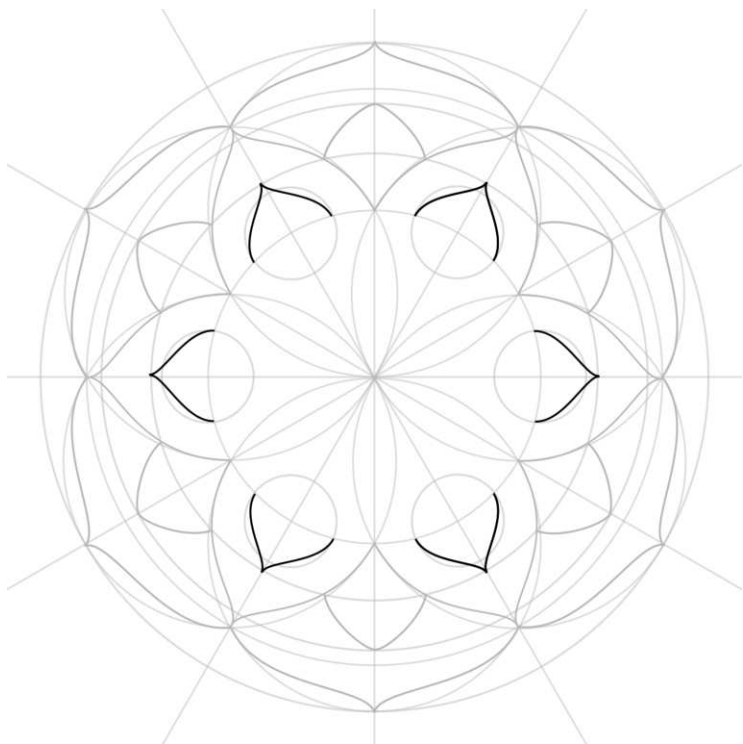
Recreate the Petal

Sketch petals using the helper circles. Keep going—circle, petal, circle, petal—until they form a complete ring.



Smudge stepped back, brushing chalk dust from his robe.

“And there you have it—a ring of evenly balanced petals-within-petals, built with the magic of helper circles. Smashing!”



Activity: Little Helpers

Some shapes won't squeeze neatly between the rays. But with a helper circle, you can coax them into place. Try it out yourself.

- Continue on your magic grid.
- Pick a box for your petal—one that's close but doesn't quite fit.
- Place your compass point at the centre of the nearest intersection.
- Draw a helper circle to guide the smaller petal.
- Use that circle as your rail and draw the petal along it.
- Repeat the process—intersection, helper circle, petal—all the way around.

Congratulations—you've created a perfect ring of petals-within-petals, balanced by your helper circles.

Smudge swept his robe in a grand swish. "Remember, class: awkward is only awkward until you give it structure. Then it becomes extraordinary."

Rings

Without explanation, Smudge disappeared out back again. The animals exchanged puzzled looks—until he burst back in, spinning a hula hoop around his waist. His hips were going like a metronome set to “silly.”

They weren’t sure what to make of this, but by now they trusted Smudge would explain himself... eventually.

He was having so much fun he nearly forgot he was in class. Mid-spin, he gasped. “Ah yes—the lesson!”

He stopped, caught the hoop, and held it high.

“Rings, everyone! Rings! Fun, exciting—and essential in mandalas. A ring can hold a whole world of possibilities. It can frame something special, hold everything together, or shine on its own.

Fill them with patterns, colours, zigzags, feathers, raindrops, lightning bolts... and yes, even *Smudge*!”

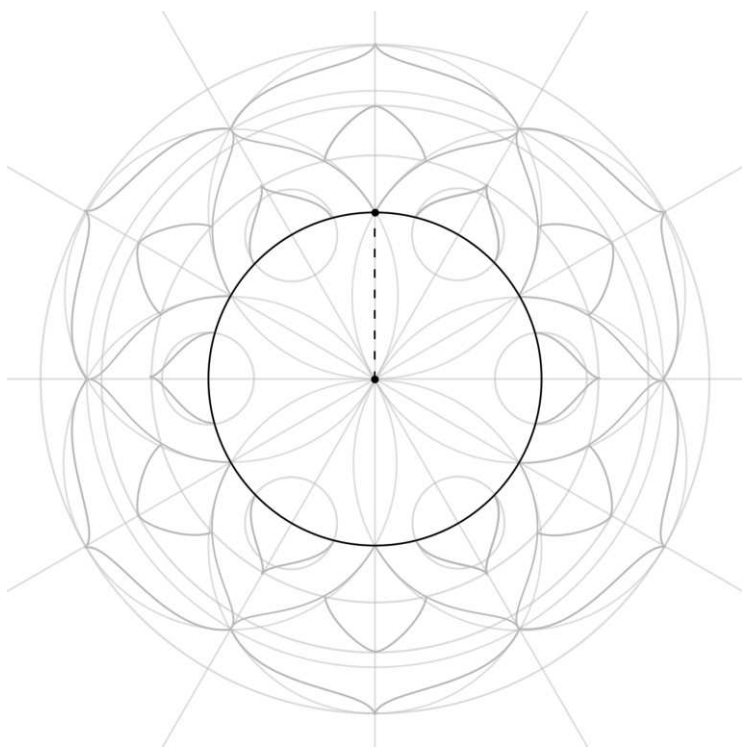
Smudge gave the hoop one last dramatic twirl, then caught it with a flourish.

“So—let’s add a ring to our mandala and make it shine.”

Step 1

Bold the Circle

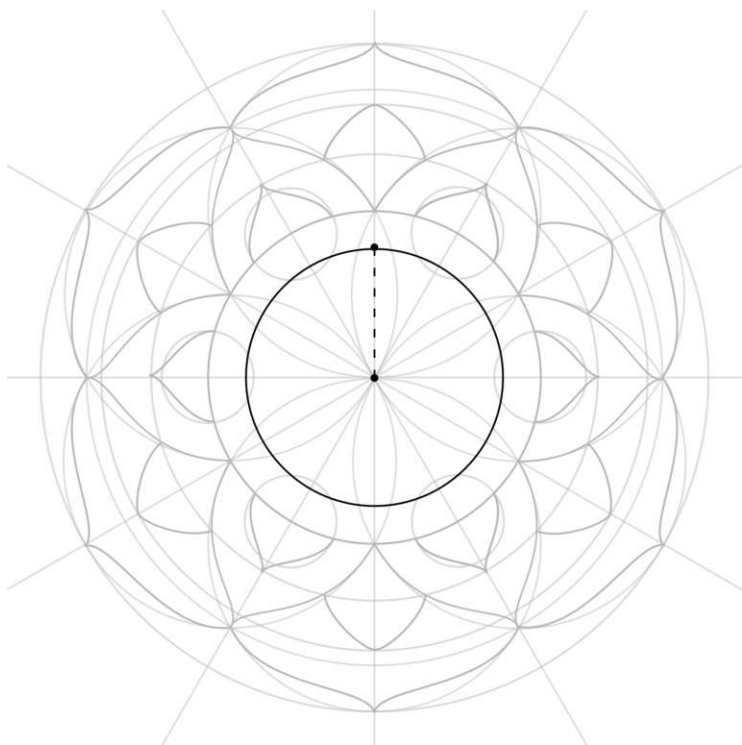
“Start with the centre circle you already drew,” Smudge said. “Trace over it again, pressing just a little harder so it stands out.”



Step 2

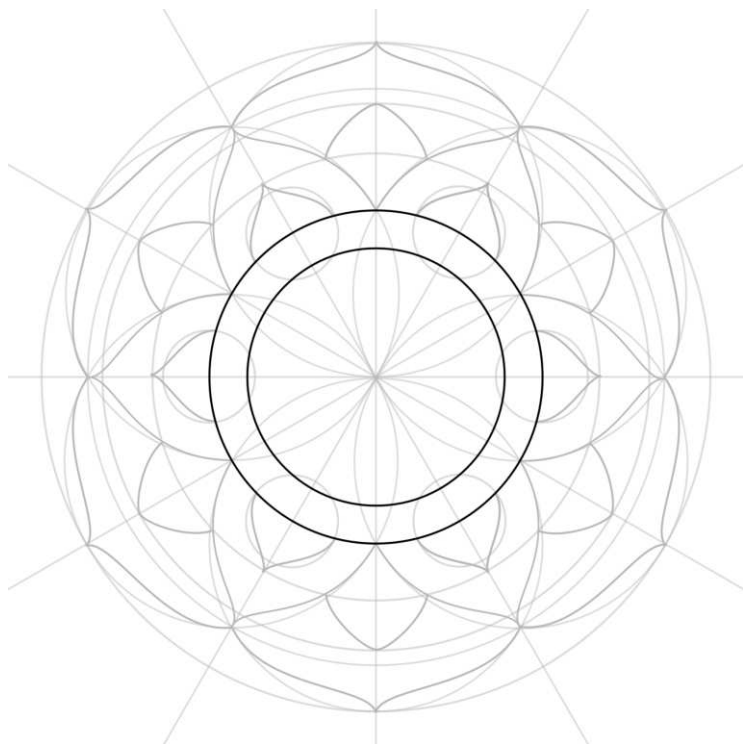
Add an Inner Circle

“Now draw another circle just inside it,” he continued. “Use your eye to keep the gap even, so the ring feels balanced.”



“Ta-da!” Smudge bounced on his toes, beaming.

“A clear central ring—perfectly balanced and ready to hold something special.”



Activity: The Ring of Potential

A single ring can turn a simple design into something special—like a picture in a frame, or Smudge-in-a-hoop. Give it a twirl!

RINGS

- Continue on your mandala grid.
- Trace over the centre circle so it stands out a little.
- Add another circle just inside it to form the inner edge of a ring.
- Keep the spacing even so the ring feels balanced.

Step back and admire your ring of potential—steady, strong, and ready for a little magic.

Centres

Smudge picked up the hoop once more and, to the animals' delight, shoved his face through it like a picture frame. He wobbled his head side to side, pulling a pout, a fish-face, then crossed his eyes until the parrots nearly fell off their perch laughing.

"See?" he grinned, still framed inside the ring. "Every ring needs something special in the middle. Without a centre, it's just... empty. Like me without snacks!"

Smudge tossed the hoop like a frisbee, and the elephant, delighted to play, caught it neatly with his trunk.

The animals with hands promptly applauded.

Then Smudge tapped the centre of his magic grid—*tap, tap*.

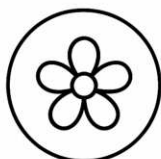
"When you give a ring a centre... that's when the magic begins."

He straightened. "The centre anchors your whole design. If the centre is strong, the mandala feels alive."

To show what he meant, Smudge scribbled quickly on the board, filling six little circles with examples.



STARBURSTS



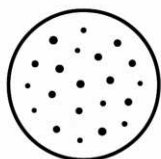
TINY FLOWERS



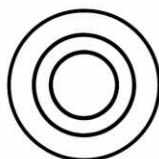
JEWEL SHAPE



SPIRALS



DOTS



RINGS

“What you choose is up to you,” he said as he turned back to the class. “Big or small, detailed or plain,” he explained, “the centre is yours to make your own. Make it bold, make it juicy, make it yours.”

Whiskers flicked her tail and purred dryly. “Or you could just put *me* in the middle and be done with it.”

Smudge pinched the bridge of his nose. “Yes, Whiskers, we could.”

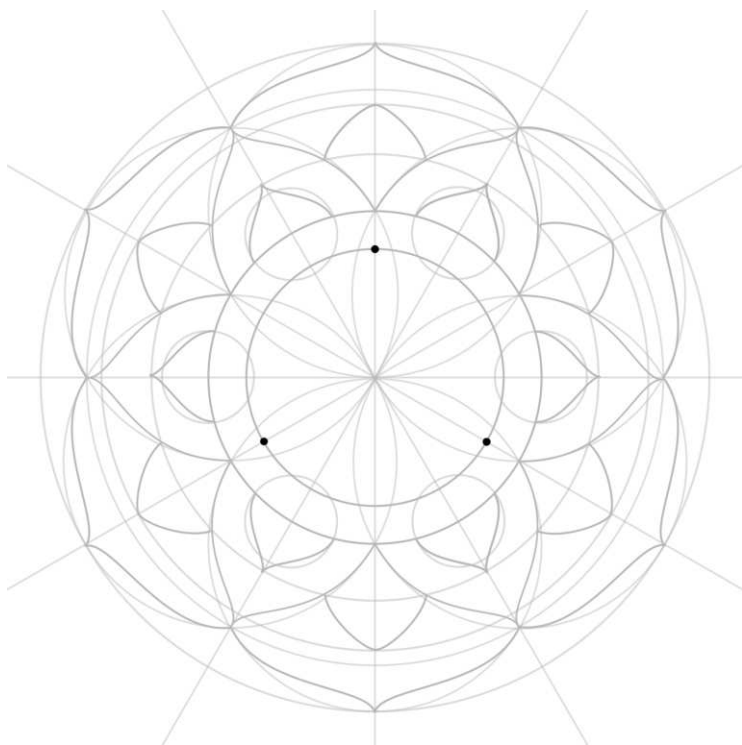
Smudge took a cautious step back, just in case of claws.

“But today, I’m choosing... a star! And this is how it’s done...”

Step 1

Mark the Points

“Inside the centre ring, find three points to make a triangle—one at the top, two at the sides. Easy as pie!”



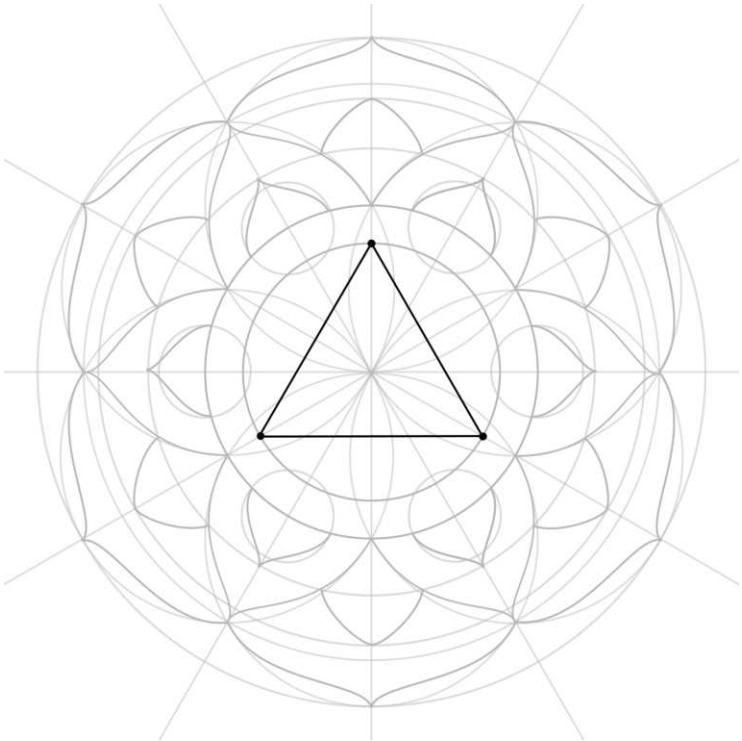
Step 2

Connect the Dots

“Now, join them up,” he said, drawing neat strokes between each point with his ruler.

A triangle appeared.

Smudge winked. “See? Half a star already. It gets shinier, too.”



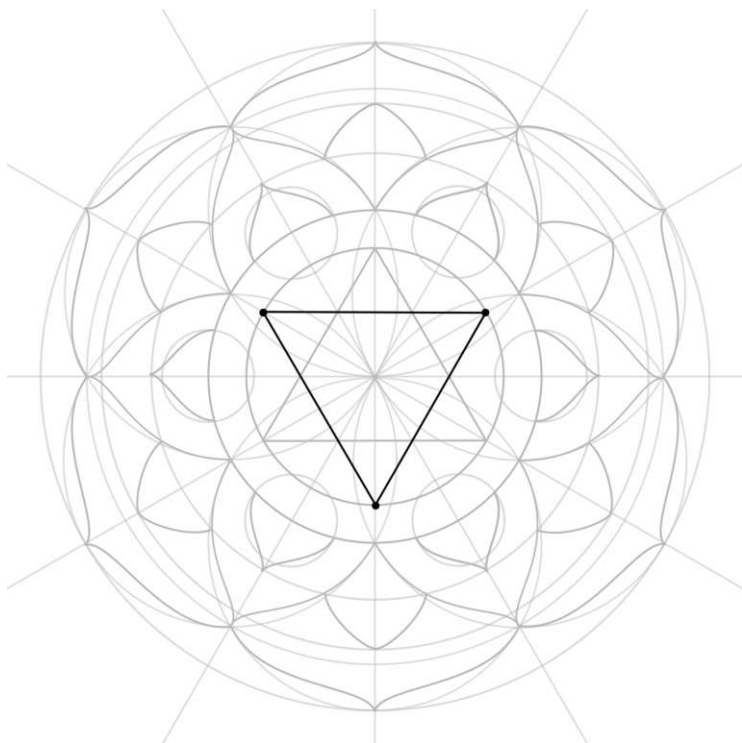
Step 3

Flip It

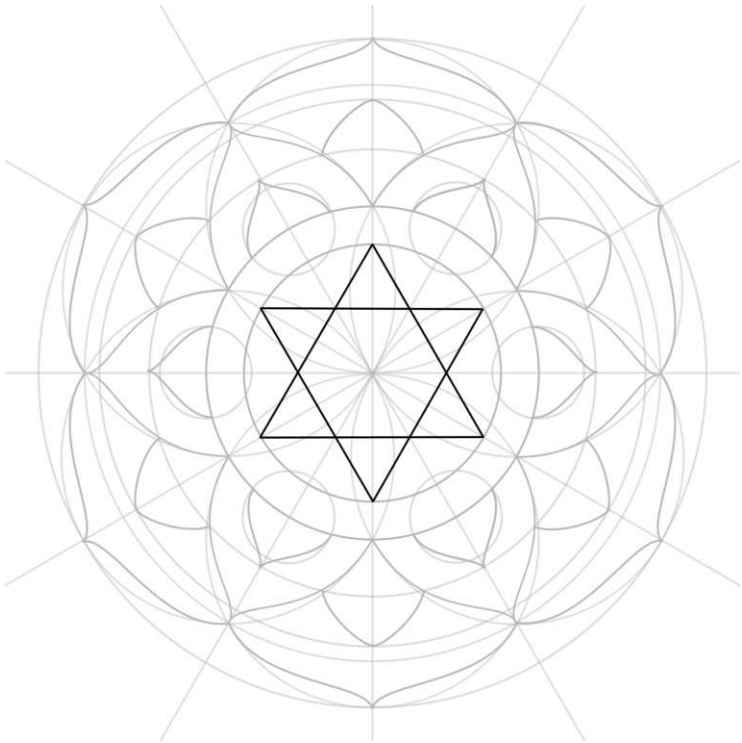
“Stars need balance,” Smudge explained. “So now we flip the triangle.”

He tapped three more points, this time upside down.

“Connect these and—there! A star begins to shine.”



“That was easy, wasn’t it?” Smudge said, reaching up to retrieve the hoop from the elephant’s trunk—though the elephant wasn’t entirely keen to give it back. After a brief tug-of-war, Smudge snatched the hoop and hula-ed his way back out.

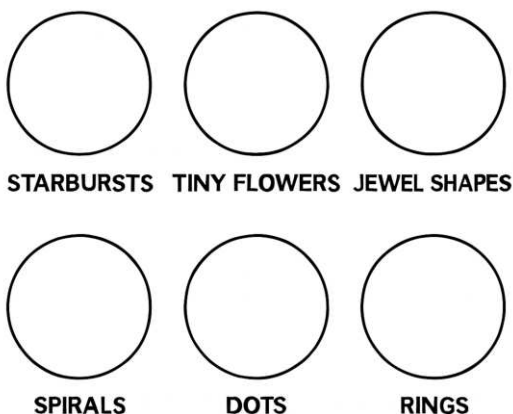


Smudge was gone for a while, though the animals were fairly certain they could hear the sound of hula-hooping coming from the next room. After a quick glance at one another, unsure what else to do, they decided to carry on without him.

Activity: Sacred Centres

Part 1 – Practice Examples

Use the template and recreate each design in the right circle: starbursts, tiny flowers, jewel shapes, spirals, dots, and rings. Notice how each one feels different in the middle.

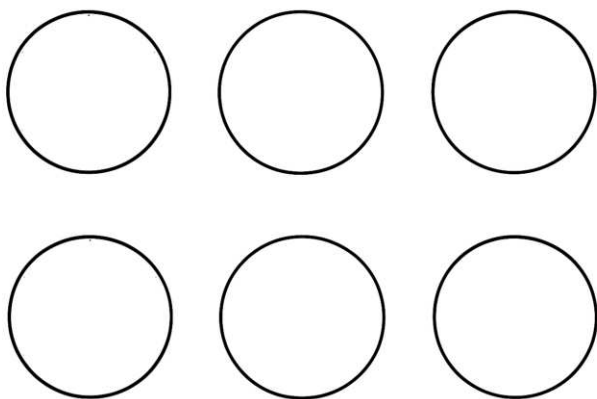


Part 2 – Make Your Own

Invent six brand-new centres—whatever comes to mind!

Try bold ones, tiny ones, funny ones (a banana, a paw print, a mini cheese wedge).

This is your chance to play and discover.



Part 3 – Create Your Star

Keep your ideas safe and secret—you'll need them later. For now, though, let's play it safe and use the star. No experiments, no explosions.

- On your magic grid, focus on the very middle circle.
- Mark three points for an upward triangle.
- Connect them to make the first half of your star.
- Next, mark three points for a downward triangle.
- Connect those dots so the two triangles overlap.

When you're finished, hold your page at arm's length. There's your star—balanced at the heart of your mandala.

After a while, Smudge finally reappeared. He whistled while

pacing up and down with his hands clasped behind his back, inspecting the animals' work as if he'd never been gone. He nodded approvingly. "Perfect," he said. "A star that knows exactly where it belongs."

Boing

Smudge returned to his desk—then suddenly ducked behind it with exaggerated drama and vanished from sight.

The animals blinked. They were used to Smudge being strange, but this was odd—even for him.

For a few moments, nothing happened.

Silence.

A little more silence.

Then—*boing!*—Smudge popped back up, wearing his very best outfit and looking splendid.

“See? Before something can return in its final, beautiful form—like me just now—it sometimes has to disappear first.”

He pointed to his chalkboard mandala.

“Right now, your page is full of helpers—grid lines, guides, scaffolding. They’ve done their job, but they’re not meant to stay forever. It’s time to let them go.”

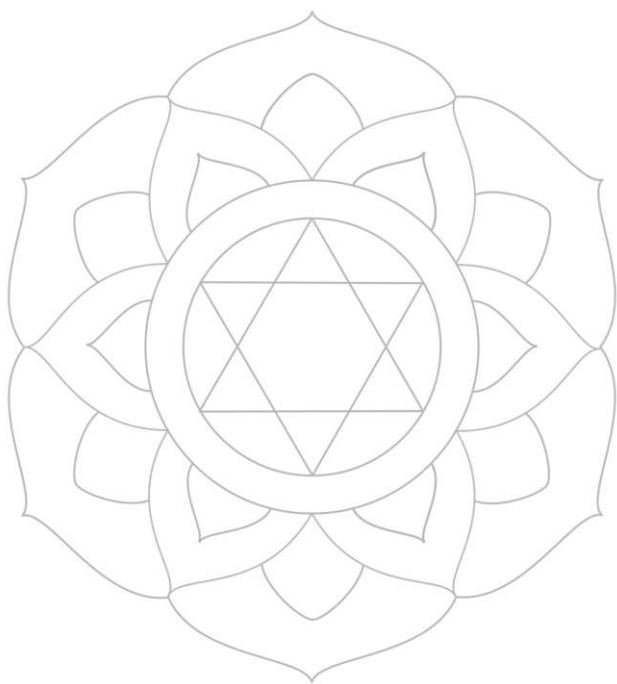
The animals sighed as one. The mouse dabbed his eyes. “They lived good, long, straight lives,” he said solemnly.

“And to let them go,” Smudge continued, “you’ll need your good friend—the rubber.”

He held it aloft for all to see, carefully hiding the side with his heroic self-portrait (complete with underpants and cape).

“Treat it kindly,” he warned. “Press too hard and you’ll tear the page; rub too wildly and you’ll smear the design. But gently, softly—ahh!—and your mandala will shine in its true glory.”

Rub, rub, rub. The grid lines faded, leaving only the design—clear but faint.



“Once your final design is ready,” Smudge said, “your mandala is ready too—time for its final glory.”

Activity: Rub It All Out (Almost)

Your grid helped you build the design, but it isn't meant to stay forever. The lines were only guides, not the final picture. Clearing them away is what makes room for the mandala to truly shine.

Gently rub out the construction marks—grids, guides, and extra circles. Keep the outlines of your real design faint but visible.

Hold it up—you now have a clean outline, ready for the next stage. With the scaffolding gone, the mandala stands on its own: strong, balanced, and ready to shine.

Patterns

Smudge gave a yawn so huge the class could see right down his throat.

“Snoo-oo-oozey...” he groaned, wobbling on his feet.

He pointed at the neat but empty design.

“It’s good... but it’s awfully booooring.”

“Boooring!” yowled Whiskers.

“Boooring!” rumbled the tortoise.

“Booo...” yawned the sloth—then promptly dozed off.

One by one, the animals joined in—stretching, yawning, wings flapping lazily, tails dragging on the floor.

Then—flip! Smudge sprang to life, eyes wide, arms flung open.

“But wait! Excitement is here—and it’s for all of us!”

The animals burst into cheers. “Hurrah!”

“We love excitement! We love excitement!” they chanted.

He twirled his chalk dramatically.

“The design doesn’t just need lines and circles. It needs... dah-da-dahhh—PATTERNS!”

The animals gasped.

“Patterns?” squeaked the bat.

“Patterns!” squawked the flamingo.

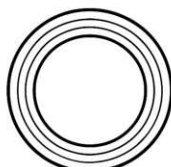
“He’s right!” cried the peacock, fanning her tail. “Everyone needs patterns—just like me!”

“Exactly!” Smudge cheered. “Patterns, patterns, patterns! And now—you and I are going to make some together.”

He turned to the board and, with a quick flourish of chalk, drew six circles, each one filled with a different pattern.



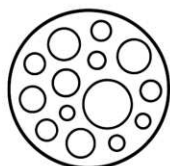
STAR



RINGS



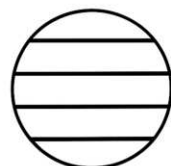
LEAF



BUBBLES



HONEYCOMB



STRIPES

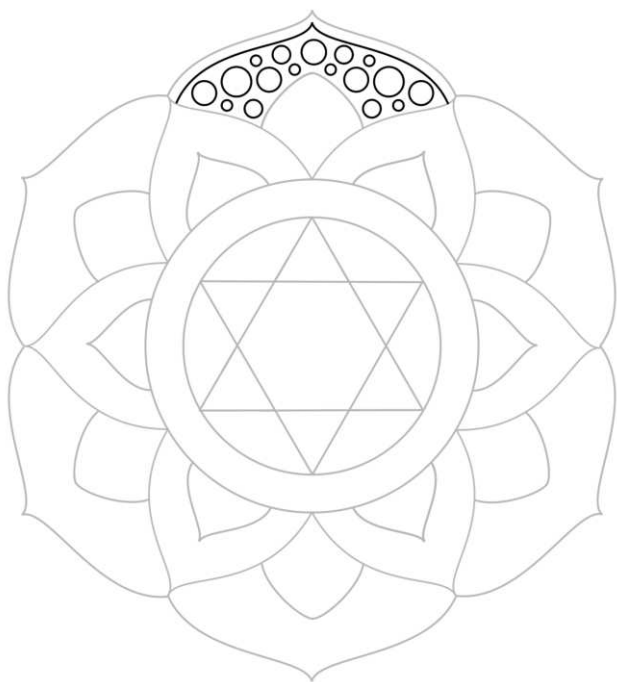
“These are my favourites,” he said proudly, “but you can invent your own—anything goes! Whatever you come up with, you can then apply to your mandala... just like this...”

Step 1

Start Small

Pick just one shape on your design. Inside it, draw your pattern—dots, zigzags, waves, spirals, leaves, stars... whatever pops into your imagination.

“One shape, one idea. Keep it simple!” said Smudge.

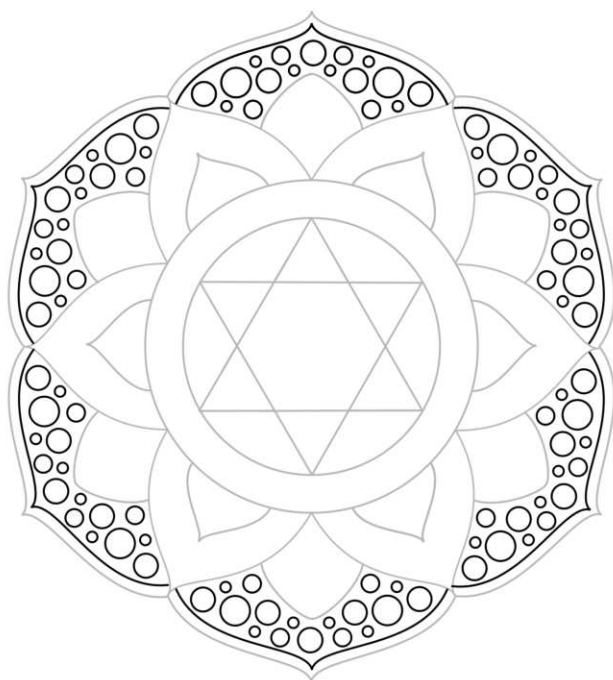


Step 2

Repeat the Pattern

When you're happy with your pattern, copy it into the next shape, then the next, working carefully around the grid.

“Patterns love company, class! The more they repeat, the stronger they sing.”



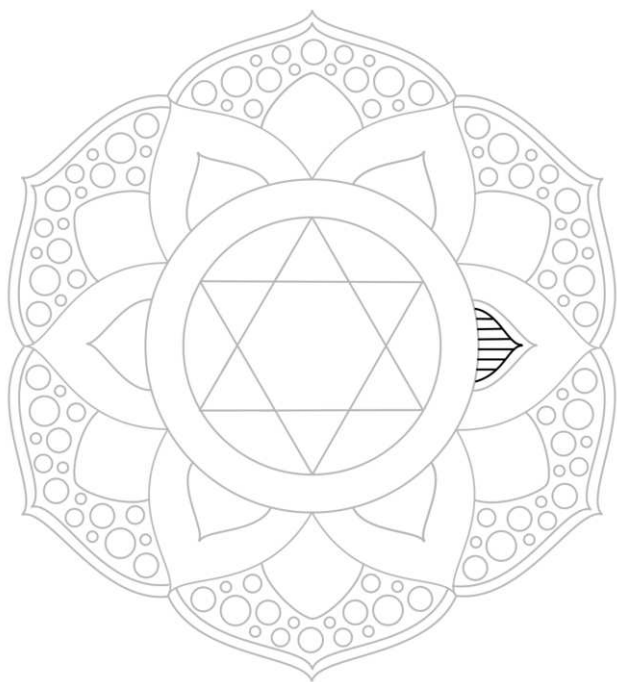
Step 3

Try Another

Choose a different part of your mandala—another petal or leaf, in the ring, or even a space in between.

Smudge pointed with his chalk.

“Patterns aren’t picky—they’ll happily live anywhere you place them!”

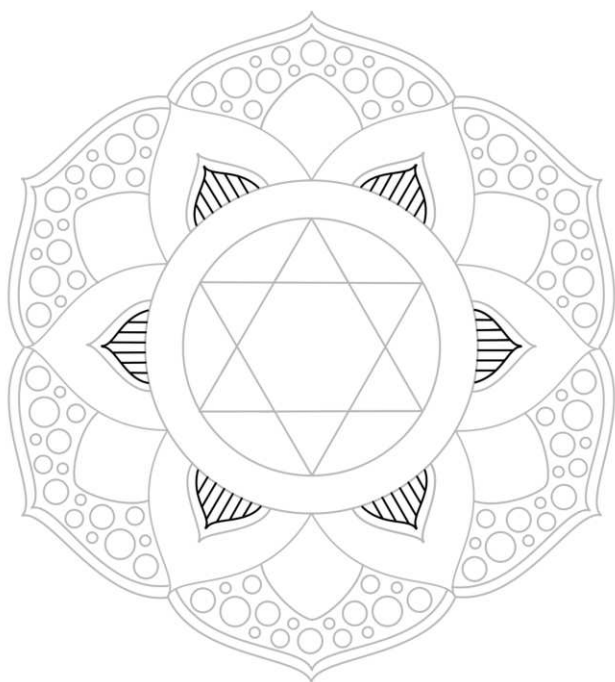


Step 4

Repeat

“Carry your new pattern all the way around—just like before,”
Smudge said, twirling his chalk like a baton.

“Just look at that pattern harmony!”



Step 5

Keep Going

“Try different shapes, different designs—fill your grid until it’s alive with variety. Let it dance! But remember—it doesn’t have to be like mine,” Smudge said. “You can use stripes, spirals, paw prints—yes, even bananas!”



“You see?” Smudge stepped back. “One pattern becomes many;

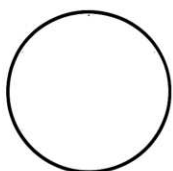
the patterns join hands—and your mandala comes alive.”

Activity: Making Patterns

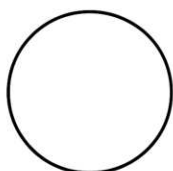
It helps to practice patterns first—like warming up before a big event. These activities take you from simple practice all the way to your own patterned mandala.

Part 1 – Practice Examples

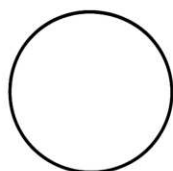
Use the following template and recreate each pattern in the right circle: stars, rings, leaves, bubbles, honeycomb, and stripes.



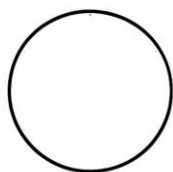
STAR



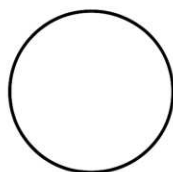
RINGS



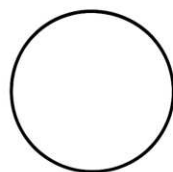
LEAF



BUBBLES



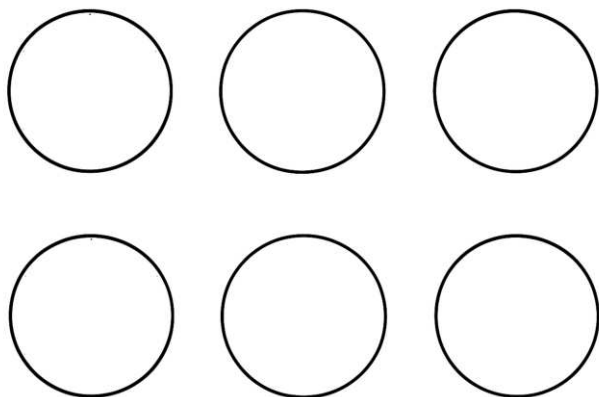
HONEYCOMB



STRIPES

Part 2 – Make Your Own

This time, invent your own patterns. Experiment, play, and see what works best—there are no wrong answers!



Part 3 – Your Mandala

You're ready—move from practice to the real thing. It's time to put your patterns on the mandala.

- Choose one shape—star, leaf, petal, or ring.
- Fill it with a pattern: dots, lines, spirals, anything you like.
- Repeat that same pattern all the way around.
- Try different patterns in different shapes.

Pause and admire your work. You've gone from practising in simple circles to a mandala alive with patterns. Bravo!

Permanence

Next, Smudge declared, “We take our delicate design... and make it permanent!”

He held up a bottle of ink with dramatic showmanship—then gave a little bow, because of course he did. What happened next was... unfortunate.

SMASH!

Mid-bow, the bottle slipped from his fingers and shattered on the floor. Ink splattered across the tiles, streaked up his robe, and drenched poor Biscuit—who, until that moment, had been a white dog wagging his tail.

When the chaos settled, Biscuit stood nose to tail in blotches.

“ARRRGHHH!” Smudge yelped, hopping from foot to foot. “My dog! He’s... he’s... *spotted!*”

The parrots shrieked with laughter. “Dalmatian! Dalmatian!”

“Don’t panic, Biscuit,” Smudge said quickly. “It’s not that bad—just a few spots. Very stylish, really.”

“Liar, liar, pants on fire!” the parrots chorused.

Smudge cleared his throat, straightened his robe, and tried to carry on as if nothing had happened.

“Ink, everyone, is very, very permanent.”

Biscuit froze, tail stiff, eyes locked on Smudge.

Smudge shifted uncomfortably and carefully avoided eye contact. “By the way, did I ever mention how spotty dogs are the very best kind? Well, they are, and I thought you might all like to know that.”

He clapped his hands. “Anyway! Where were we? Ah yes—permanence. When handled carefully, permanence is powerful, because it makes our designs last forever. Let me show you how.”

Biscuit edged backwards, one paw at a time... just in case.

Step 1

Trace with Confidence

“Choose your tool: pen, fine liner, or a delicate marker. Slowly trace over the pencil lines of your design. Keep your hand steady—move smoothly, don’t rush.”

“And remember,” he added, “your ruler and compass still work with pen or marker. They’re not just for planning—they’re for finishing too.”

Step 2

Line by Line

“Don’t ink everything at once. Work piece by piece, line by line, pattern by pattern. Pause, breathe, stretch your paws or claws. Perfect permanence comes from patience...”

Step 3

Slow and Steady

“When the ink is dry—and I mean dry, not smudgy-wet—gently rub out any leftover pencil marks. Then your mandala will shine, crisp and clean.”

The animals crowded around as Smudge worked at a painfully slow pace. It seemed like he might never finish. The sloth had already nodded off (again) by the time Smudge gave one last careful blow across the page—and at last revealed his inked mandala.



Activity: Make Temporary Permanent

The scaffolding is gone, the outlines are ready, the patterns are in—now it's time to give your mandala its true shape.

- Trace every line in ink (a pen, fine liner, marker, or coloured pen).
- Let it dry—really dry.
- Gently erase any remaining pencil lines.

Hey presto! You've made a mandala design that's clear, crisp, and... permanent. Marvellous!

Thick & Thin

Smudge rummaged noisily in his geometry box until he popped back up with a fistful of pens—some thick, some thin. Looking terribly pleased with himself, he held them aloft like a magician about to unveil a trick. And in truth, he was.

“Class,” he declared, “now we learn the magic of depth.”

He lined up the pens neatly on his desk.

“Thinner lines are light and delicate—they whisper.”

He tapped the board with the skinniest. *Tip, tap!*

“Thick lines are bold and strong—they shout!”

He tapped again with the chunkiest. *Thump!*

“And when you use them together—your mandala jumps off the page at you!”

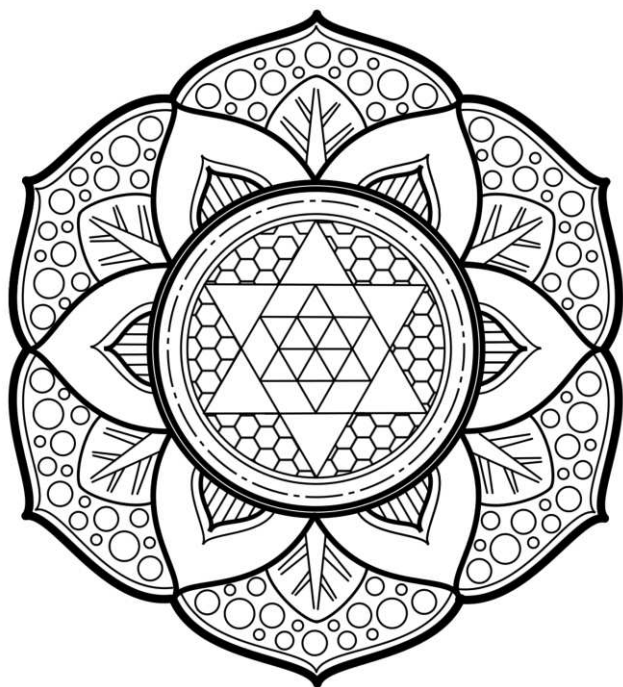
“Want to see?” Smudge said, raising an eyebrow.

The animals nodded eagerly—a rustle of feathers, a patter of paws, a whisk of tails.

“Excellent! Stand back, then, my little friends!”

Smudge whirled across the page, swapping pens in a blur. Thin flicks whispered through the petals, thicker strokes framed the edges, and the fattest pen anchored everything in bold certainty.

After much furious activity, he finally came to a stop—panting, his hair plastered to his forehead. He held the mandala aloft with pride.



The animals gasped. The mandala seemed alive—parts leaping forward, others sinking back, like waves in motion.

“That,” he said, “is the magic of depth. With thick and thin together, your mandala becomes more than lines—it becomes a story on the page.”

Feeling rather proud of himself, Smudge reached down to

stroke his new Dalmatian. By now, Biscuit had accepted his new identity and wagged his tail happily at the attention.

Activity: Thick and Thin

Lines aren't all the same. Some are bold and heavy, others are fine and delicate—and when you put them together, your mandala gains contrast, rhythm, and character. Let's practise using both.

- Gather pens, pencils, or markers of different thicknesses.
- Outline the larger shapes with a thick pen.
- Add fine, thin lines for the smaller details inside.
- Swap it around—thin outlines with thick details.

Notice how the different weights guide your eyes—thick lines leading, thin lines dancing. This balance between bold and delicate is one of the secrets to making your mandala feel alive.

Colours

Smudge vanished out back once more. A moment or two later, he stumbled back in with a basket overflowing with coloured crayons, pencils, and markers. With all his strength, he heaved it onto the table.

CRASH!

The basket tipped sideways, spilling a rainbow avalanche everywhere.

Biscuit barked and pounced after a runaway red crayon.

“Class!” Smudge cried as he gathered them back up. “Now we add even more life to our mandalas—with colour!”

He began with the idea of **colour palettes**. Carefully, he lined up three neat rows of coloured pencils across the table.

“A palette,” he explained, “is simply the set of colours you choose to work with. Like a painter’s paintbox, it sets the mood of your artwork. Here are a few common palettes—and how they feel.”

- **Warm** – reds, oranges, yellows: fiery and full of energy.
- **Cool** – blues, greens, purples: calm, peaceful, deep.

- **Complementary** – opposites like blue/orange, red/green, purple/yellow: striking and bold.

“Pick a palette,” Smudge said, “and your mandala will take on the same mood.”

The animals wasted no time. The tiger pounced on every shade of red, while the frog clung happily to green. The parrots grabbed all the crayons at once, squawking and flinging colour in every direction.

Meanwhile, the sloth kept things simple, hugging a single crayon. “I love... beige,” he murmured, utterly satisfied with his life choices.

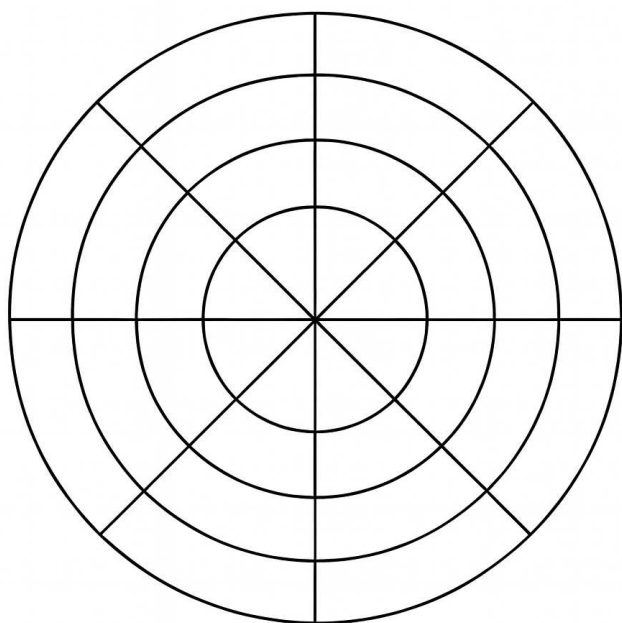
“Colour brings everything to life,” Smudge continued. “But use it wisely. Repeat the same shades as you move around the circle, and your mandala will feel balanced. Mirror them across the rays, echo them in the ripples—that way colour isn’t just colourful—it’s composed.”

He winked. “Of course, if you don’t repeat... you get chaos. Which can be fun too.”

Activity: Cool Colours

Now it’s your turn—but not on the mandala! Colour is serious business, so the mandala can wait... for now. To get this right, practise first and find the perfect colour combo.

- Use the practice grid.
- In each slice, try out a different palette—warm, cool, complementary, limited, rainbow.
- Notice how the colours feel together—calm, bright, bold, or gentle.



You now have a whole collection of palettes—like a treasure chest of moods and possibilities. These will be your guide when it's time to bring colour to your mandala. They will help you choose, not just what looks good, but what feels right.

Shading

“Class,” Smudge said with great seriousness, “now that we have our colours, it’s time to give them even more depth.”

“More?! Impossible!” declared the giant snail, recoiling in disbelief—so slowly that no one really noticed.

“Yes... more,” Smudge insisted, eyes gleaming. “Not just with lines. Not just with colours. But with shadows and light!”

With that, he leapt into a shadowy corner of the room to “demonstrate.”

“Psst... can you see me?” he stage-whispered.

“Yes!” chorused the animals.

Smudge shuffled deeper into the shadows. “How about now?”

“Yes!”

He crouched all the way down, only his ears poking out. “Now?”

The parrots collapsed into giggles. “We can STILL see you!”

Smudge sprang back into the sunlight, arms wide.

“Okay, this didn’t work. But my point is, you can see me less. Shadows hide things, light reveals things. And when we mix the two—ta-da!—we get depth.”

He hopped back and forth between the sunny and shady patches of the room, chanting, “Shadow! Light! Shadow! Light!”

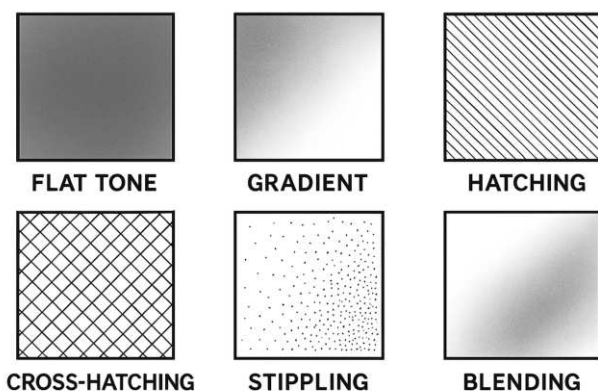
After a while, the tortoise muttered what everyone was thinking: “He’s lost it...”

Smudge spun mid-hop. “Lost it? I’ve *found* it!”

He paused, looked thoughtful for a moment... then kept hopping.

When Smudge’s shadowy demonstration finally ended, he turned back to the chalkboard and drew a neat grid of little squares.

“Hmm... maybe it’s better if I show you this way,” he said, tapping the first box with his stubby chalk.



Smudge cleared his throat, puffed himself up with importance, and launched into a grand demonstration (a real one)—filling

each little box with a different shading trick.

- **Flat Tone** – Shade smoothly with even pressure.
- **Gradient** – Begin lightly, then press harder as you go.
- **Hatching** – Draw parallel lines, close together.
- **Cross-Hatching** – Add a second layer of lines across the first.
- **Stippling** – Tiny dots: closer together for darker, further apart for lighter.
- **Blending** – Shade, then smooth gently with your finger.

“So, there you have it. These are just some of the techniques you can use. Now—watch what happens when I bring colour **and** shading to the mandala.”

Smudge’s tongue poked out in fierce concentration as pens and pencils flew.

When the whirlwind of creation finally settled, he let his coloured pencil drop and stepped back. He paused, letting the stillness catch up with him.

And the mandala—oh, the mandala—glowed with depth and motion, as though breathing colour and light.

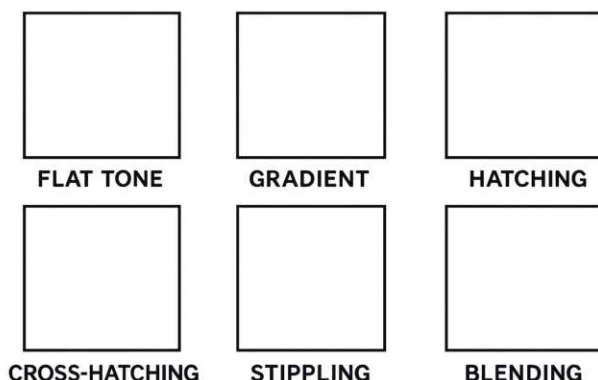


Activity: Super Shading

Colour alone can make a mandala bright, but shading is what gives it depth—light and shadow, bold and soft, near and far. Let's learn how to use them, then bring them together to make your mandala shine.

Part 1 – Practice Boxes

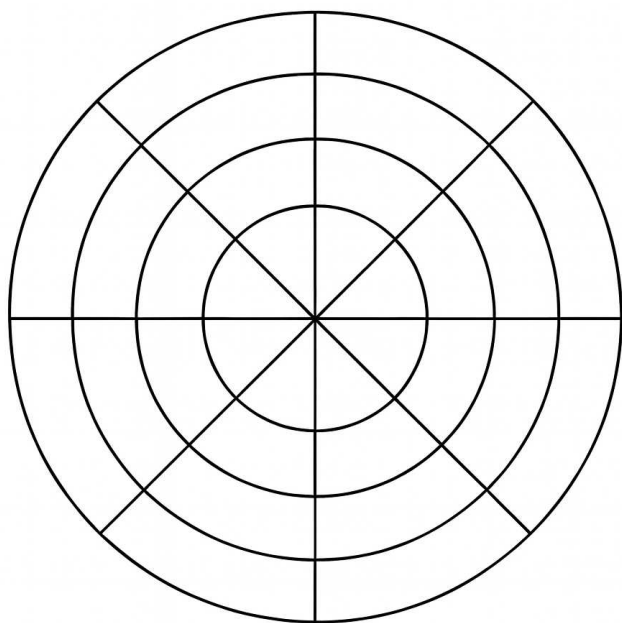
By practising shading first, you'll learn to bring flat shapes to life. In each box, try a different shading style. It's like training for your hand and eye before moving to the main stage of your mandala.

*Part 2 – Practice Grid*

Next, practise **shading with colour** on the grid (not on the mandala yet!).

- Use the practice grid.
- Choose a few bendy squares and test colour **and** shading together.

- Try gradients, hatching, stippling, or blending with different palettes.
- Notice how the shading shifts the mood of each colour combination.



Part 3 – The Real Deal

You're ready—commit to colour and shading on your mandala. Build gradients, hatch, or stipple directly with your colours. Mix techniques across different sections. Carry them through the whole design so colour and shadow work together to create depth, contrast, and harmony.

Take a breath and admire your work—your mandala no longer sits flat on the page. With shading and colour, it glows with depth, movement, and life.

Crikey! That's proper magic!

Homework

BOOOOONG!

The gong echoed once more through the Sanctuary, sending Biscuit three feet into the air—spots and all. The gorilla had given this one some extra oomph; after all, this bong of the gong was a special one—it marked the end of the day.

In an instant, the animals leapt up—chattering, flapping, stomping, and scampering in every direction. Pencils rolled, papers fluttered, feathers flew. Within moments, the Sanctuary of Symmetry looked more like the Jungle of Chaos.

“Hold it! Hold it! Stop! SIT!” Smudge cried, arms flailing like windmills. He even dived after a chicken that had made it halfway out of the door and wrestled it triumphantly back into class.

After the feathers had settled and order was restored, Smudge stood, straightened his robe, and cleared his throat. “Hold your pencils! Before you all dash off, I’ve got something important—your homework...”

The animals groaned in unison. “Booo!”

“...is to create a mandala of your own,” Smudge finished.

A beat of silence—then the class erupted into cheers.

“Hurrah!” they cried, tails wagging, wings flapping, paws drumming the floor.

“And here’s the deal,” Smudge continued. “It must be entirely yours—not a copy, but your own design, unique from the very first line.”

He paused, letting the words sink in.

“And anyone who completes their mandala homework will graduate.”

The animals burst into cheers again. “Double hurrah!”

“We’ll gather tomorrow for a grand celebration. Your work will be displayed, admired, and—” he lowered his voice dramatically, “—judged at graduation.”

“Ooooooh...” the animals chorused.

“Because one of you,” Smudge announced, drawing out the pause, “one lucky little animal... will be crowned Mandala School’s *Mandala Master!*”

“Ooooooh...” went the animals again, even louder this time.

Smudge gave a shallow bow. “Now go! Imagine, create, and bring me back something wonderful.”

Smudge slightly regretted not telling them to leave slowly as they stampeded over him into the evening, but as he picked himself up from the floor, he was pleased to see they were buzzing with ideas.

Activity: Your Own Mandala

It’s time to make your very own mandala—not a copy of Smudge’s, not the same as your friend’s, but something totally unique that only you could create.

- Prepare your canvas.
- Find your centre.
- Add your ripples.
- Send out your rays.
- Add petals, leaves, shapes, and little extras.
- Choose your patterns.
- Add depth.
- Bring in colour and shading.

Learn from everything Smudge has shown you—but don't copy him.

When you're done, step back and smile. You've made something the world has never seen before. And keep it safe—it will be needed for graduation.

Graduation

BOOOOOONG!

The gong bonged to start another new day at Mandala School. The blast flattened Smudge's hair and sent Biscuit's ears flapping like flags in the wind.

Today was different, though. Today was Graduation Day.

The gorilla was wearing his best suit and Smudge didn't even have to wait—everyone (almost) was already gathered, eager to show their creations.

When the final vibrations faded, Smudge jumped straight into proceedings.

"Class, today is Graduation Day! You've measured, centred, circled, ruled, drawn, patterned, inked, shaded, and coloured. You've done the work—now comes the joy. So, without further ado—show us what you've got!"

One by one, the animals stepped forward, placing their mandalas on easels marked with their names.

The frog revealed ripples of green and blue, with tiny flies hidden among the petals. The monkeys grinned proudly over their banana mandalas, while the parrots dazzled with a rainbow

so bright the hippo had to squint. The tiger presented a fierce red-and-black design—bold and elegant. And all the others added something special of their own: shapes, colours, and stories no one else could have imagined.

Smudge beamed. “Each one perfect. Each one yours. That is the magic of mandalas.”

He took a slow breath, clasping his hands behind his back. “And now,” he said with a twinkle, “it’s time to choose our Best in Class.”

The animals held their breath as Smudge paced. He squinted, hummed, stroked his chin, even crouched to peer from a “better angle.” He dangled himself upside down from the rafters.

The silence stretched.

Smudge lifted a finger, the moment hanging in the air.

He drew a final deep breath and broke the silence. “And the winner is—”

“Waaait for meee!” came a very unhurried voice as the doors burst open—slowly. Someone tumbled in, trailing ribbons, chalk dust, and what looked suspiciously like a sandwich. There was only one animal who could make an entrance like that.

It was the late arrival... and this time, it wasn’t Whiskers.

Winners

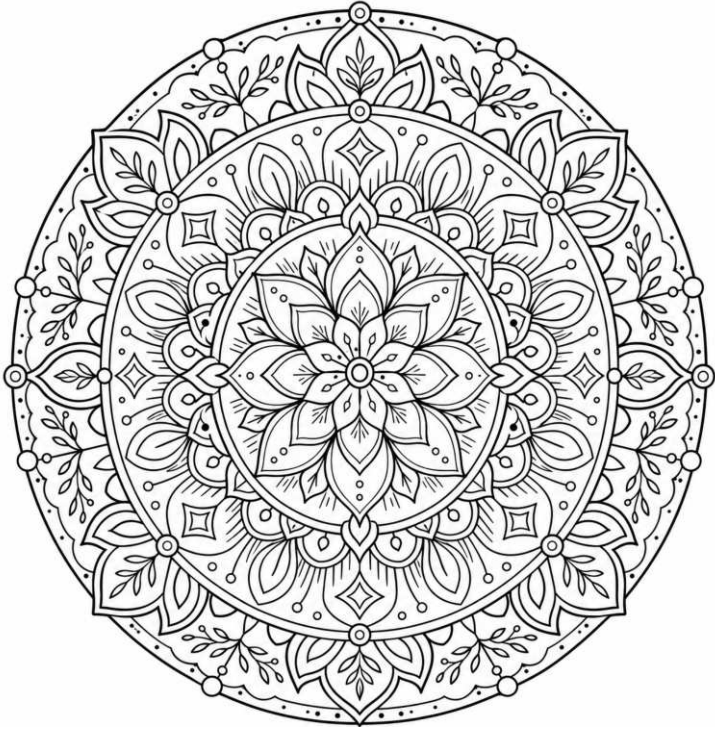
From the doorway came a slow, steady shuffle. The sloth ambled in at his own pace, clutching a rolled page almost as tall as himself. Each step seemed to take a century—but no one was in a rush.

When he finally reached the display, the animals leaned forward—eyes bright, beaks open, jaws hanging.

With deliberate care, the sloth unfurled his creation on the easel marked *Sloth*.

The Sanctuary fell silent.

Lines shimmered. Colours glowed. The mandala was so detailed, so luminous, so perfectly balanced it looked as though it had been alive all along—simply waiting for its moment to appear.



The parrots squawked, “Magnificent! Magnificent!”

The frog croaked, “Glorious!”

Even Whiskers raised an eyebrow. “Acceptable,” she muttered.

Biscuit bounded over and gave the sloth an enthusiastic round of licks.

Smudge smiled. “Class, you’ve just seen the power of patience. Some journeys take longer—but look at the gift patience can bring.”

He straightened, his voice ringing out. “The Mandala Master is, without a shadow of a doubt... the mighty sloth!”

The sloth blinked once. Twice. Then a slow smile spread across his face.

“...Oh,” he murmured. “I won. How... zzz.”

Even though he’d finished his magnificent mandala, he didn’t quite finish his sentence. He was worn out from his most excellent mandala-making. His masterpiece shimmered on the easel, glowing softly while its creator snored beneath it.

For everyone else, it was graduation time. Diplomas were handed out, ribbons tied, hugs shared.

Smudge wiped a tear from his eye and gazed at the circle of proud, paint-splattered faces.

“Well done, class,” he said softly. “You’ve all graduated—and every one of you is a winner. The gong may fall silent, but your mandalas will live forever. They’ll live on in every circle you draw, every colour you choose, and every pattern you perfect.”

* * *

The Sanctuary glowed with warmth and colour as the day drew to a close. The animals gathered their things and wandered out into the evening—laughing, chatting, their minds still alight with inspiration.

When the last giggle had faded and the Sanctuary fell silent, Smudge looked around the empty room.

He glanced left, then right—just to be sure no one was watching.

A sly grin spread across his face.

He whistled softly, slipped out back, and returned with his hula hoop.

“Just one more spin before bedtime won’t hurt,” he murmured—and off he went.

Activity: Share Your Mandala

Smudge spun his hula hoop through the night, chuckling to himself. Until he froze, that is.

He squinted.

“Wait a second... someone’s still here.”

He lowered the hoop and peered across the room. His eyes twinkled as he pointed his chalk straight at **you**.

“Well, well. This is awkward. You caught me!” He laughed, rubbing the back of his head. “Looks like you’re waiting for your final task.”

Step 1 – Reflect

Look closely at your mandala. Ask yourself:

- Why did I choose these shapes?
- Why these colours?
- What story does it tell about me?

There are no wrong answers—just your imagination speaking back to you.

Step 2 – Share

Don’t let your masterpiece hide!

- Give it to someone as a gift or a card (art with heart!).
- Hang it on your wall, stick it on the fridge, or share it online.

#MandalaSchool #SacredGeometrySchool #Smudge

Step 3 – Inspire

Every time you share, you pass the magic along. Maybe your mandala will spark someone else to try... or remind them that patience, colour, and play can create something extraordinary.

Goodbye

Well, class... look at you! You've made it—all the way through Mandala School. What an achievement! You should be truly proud of yourselves. You prepared your canvases, found your centres, built grids, wrestled with rulers—and even spotted a dog. And in the end, you didn't just draw mandalas—you *made magic*.

But here's the thing: graduation isn't the end. Mandalas don't just belong in this book. They belong in your hands, your sketchpads, and your imagination. They're yours now.

So go on—keep drawing. Keep playing. Keep discovering.

And if this book made you smile, I'd love for you to leave a review wherever you found it. Reviews help other curious explorers discover Mandala School too.

You can also step through the gates of **Sacred Geometry School**, where you'll find more stories, drawing activities, colouring pages, and quiet creative adventures with Smudge and Biscuit.

BOOOOONG!

That's the gong, one last time.

Not for an ending...

but for the next beginning.

—Smudge

Psst... the gates are open here:

GOODBYE

www.sacredgeometryschoo.com
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Glossary

A

- **arc** – A curved slice of a circle.

B

- **balanced** – Even all the way around, not leaning to one side.
- **blending** – Smoothing colour so it gently fades from one shade to another.
- **bold** – Thick and strong so it really stands out.

C

- **canvas** – The page or surface you create your art on.
- **centred** – Placed exactly in the middle.
- **ceremony** – A special moment with set actions to mark something important.
- **chaos** – Wild, messy, and all over the place!
- **compass** – A tool with a point and a pencil to draw perfect circles.
- **concentric circles** – Circles that share the same centre, like ripples in a pond.
- **contrast** – Differences that pop (like dark vs light or thick

vs thin).

D

- **delicate** – Light and gentle, easy to smudge or bend.
- **dot** – A tiny mark.

E

- **easel** – A stand that holds your artwork up.
- **edge** – The outside line or border of a shape or page.
- **equivalent** – The same as something in amount, size, or meaning, even if it looks a bit different.
- **exaggerate** – To act bigger, louder, or sillier than normal for effect.

F

- **framework** – Hidden guides that hold a design together.

G

- **gong** – A big metal disc that goes “BOOOONG!” when you hit it.
- **golden ratio** – A special number that helps things look beautifully balanced.
- **gradient** – Colour that changes smoothly from light to dark.
- **graduate / graduation** – To finish the course and celebrate.
- **grid** – A set of guide lines to help place everything neatly.
- **gulp** – To swallow suddenly and loudly—often because you’re nervous, surprised, or trying to get a big mouthful

down.

H

- **hatching** – Shading with neat lines close together.
- **helper circle** – A small guide circle that helps place shapes evenly.
- **harmony** – Colours or shapes that feel like they belong together.

I

- **ink** – Liquid colour that becomes permanent when dry.
- **intersection** – The exact spot where lines or circles cross.

J

- **jewel shape** – A small gem-like shape.

L

- **layering** – Putting colours or lines on top of each other to build depth.
- **limited palette** – A small, chosen set of colours.
- **line weight** – How thick or thin a line is.

M

- **magic grid** – Guiding circles and lines that keep everything even.
- **mandala** – A circle filled with repeating patterns and ideas.

- **mallet** – A small hammer for striking a gong.
- **mood (of colours)** – The feeling your colours give (calm, fiery, mysterious).

N

- **needle (of a compass)** – The sharp point that stays in the centre while the pencil moves.

O

- **order** – Arranged so it makes sense and looks tidy.
- **outline** – The outside line that gives a shape its edge.
- **overlap** – When shapes or lines cross over each other.

P

- **palette** – The colours you choose to use.
- **pattern** – A shape or mark repeated again and again.
- **permanent** – Won't rub off or erase.
- **petal** – A flower-like curved shape.
- **precision** – Being very exact and careful.
- **press gently** – Use soft pressure so the paper doesn't tear.

R

- **rays** – Straight lines shooting from the centre like sunbeams to guide position.
- **register** – A neat list of who's present.
- **repeat** – To do the same shape again and again.
- **ripple** – A ring around the centre, like circles in water.

- **ring** – Two close circles that make a band for decoration.
- **rubber** – An eraser.
- **rule** – To draw a straight line with a ruler.

S

- **sacred geometry** – Beautiful patterns built from simple shapes and maths.
- **Sanctuary of Symmetry** – The temple-school where the lessons happen.
- **scaffolding** – Temporary guides you rub out later.
- **Seed of Life** – A famous pattern made from overlapping circles.
- **shade / shading** – Making parts darker or lighter to show depth and light.
- **smudge** – To blur a mark by rubbing it (also the teacher's name!).
- **spiral** – A line that curls around and around from or to the centre.
- **steady** – Still and not shaky.
- **stippling** – Shading with tiny dots.
- **symmetry** – Matching sides around a line or centre.

T

- **template** – A ready-made outline to draw inside.
- **thickness** – How wide a line is.
- **thrummed** – Made a deep, steady, vibrating sound.
- **trace** – To draw carefully over a line that's already there.
- **triangle** – A shape with three sides.

V

- **vertical** – A line that goes up and down.
- **vibration** – A shaking movement that makes sound (like a gong's tremble).

Z

- **zigzag** – A sharp, pointy line that goes left–right–left like little mountains.

Also by Mark Randle

If you enjoyed this adventure, there are more books, activities, and curious things waiting inside **Sacred Geometry School**.

Visit: sacredgeometryschool.com

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The Forest of Shapes

In a crooked city where nothing seems quite right, Lyra dreams of a world of perfect harmony. But when a mysterious stone falls into her hands, she discovers that her sketches of circles, triangles, and spirals might hold the key to unlocking a hidden truth—one that could change everything.



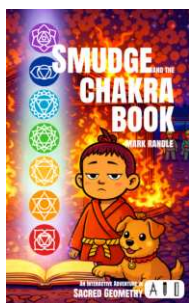
Smudge Dreams Big

Smudge has seen the Sanctuary of Symmetry in a dream.

It is beautiful. It is mysterious. It is somewhere important.

Unfortunately, “somewhere” is not a very useful address.

With Biscuit by his side, Smudge sets off to find it anyway—facing strange tests, wrong turns, suspicious cookies, mysterious helpers, and a goat called Trevor who is very much in the way.



Smudge and the Chakra Book

Smudge wasn't looking for enlightenment—just a way to get through the week without another explosion. But when he gets his hands on a strange book full of swirling symbols and talk of invisible energy, curiosity gets the better of him.

