Islamic Patterns
Introduction

• The abundant use of geometric pattern is a defining characteristic in Islamic Art.

• The sources of basic shapes and patterns used in Islamic ornamentation come from the traditions of pre-Islamic empires.

• Artists adapted the patterns and designs into new forms to support new uses.
It’s all Math!

• Muslim mathematicians and scientists made essential contributions in the development of ornaments. Their ideas and advanced technological knowledge were reflected in the geometric patterns.

• Basic instruments, a compass and ruler, are used to construct geometric designs. These tools generate the circle and line upon which all designs are based.
Shapes

• The circle and line are also the basis of proportional system used in Islamic Calligraphy.
• Complicated designs are constructed from circles and polygons.
Primary Characteristics of Islamic Geometric Decoration

- Repetition and the Illusion of Infinity
- Symmetry
- Two-Dimensionality
- Central focal point- often used to emphasize the belief in one God, Allah’s oneness is an important religious motif
Watch Video & Take Notes

THE COMPLEX GEOMETRY OF ISLAMIC DESIGN
Try it yourself! Patience is Key
Experiment on Your own!

- Make up repeating patterns on your own
Acknowledgements

These educational resources were developed for the Worcester Art Museum by Patrick D. Wilks, Lear Curatorial Intern, in partnership with local educators Batul Juma (volunteer through EnjoinGood) and Brian Leonard. Special thanks to Carina Ruiz-Esparza and Neal Bourbeau of the Worcester Art Museum Education Department.

Preserved Pages: Book as Art in Persia and India 1300-1800, October 13, 2018 – January 6, 2019
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