

What do you think this might be used for?



Muslim Prayer Mats



- While Muslims believe that it is best to pray within a mosque, prayers may take place anywhere that is clean, dignified and large enough to make the worship movements.
- For this, they need a mat.



Prayer Mats



- ☞ Have a look at the mats on your table.
- ☞ What things can you see in the design?
- ☞ Are all the mats the same? What similarities and differences are there?

Decorated Mats



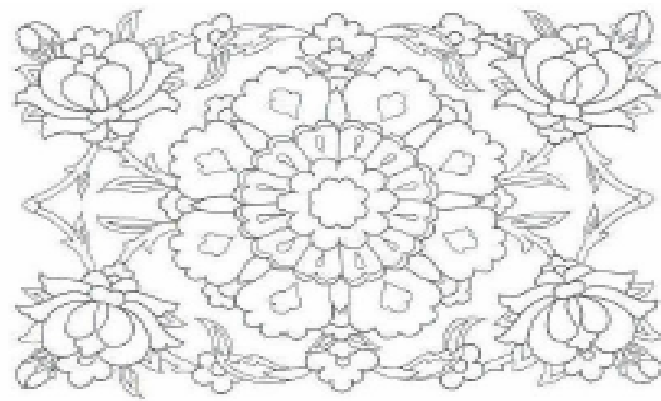
- ❧ The design does not have to be symmetrical but has a direction and is always laid down facing Mecca.
- ❧ According to Islamic tradition, no person or animal is depicted on a prayer mat.
- ❧ They often contain geometric patterns, verses from the Qur'an and flowers (representing paradise).



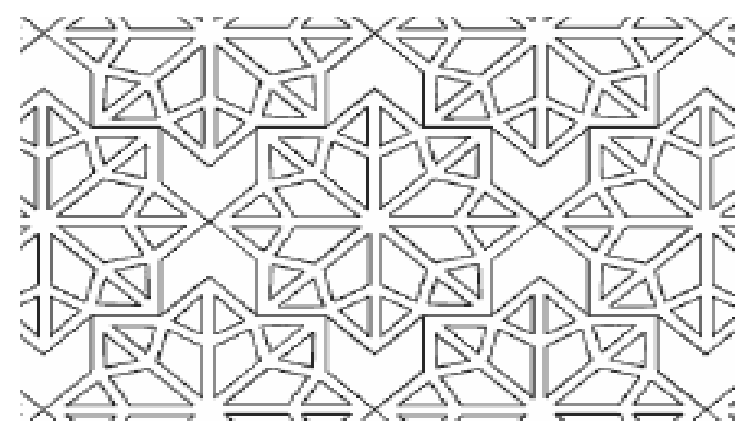
The Fault



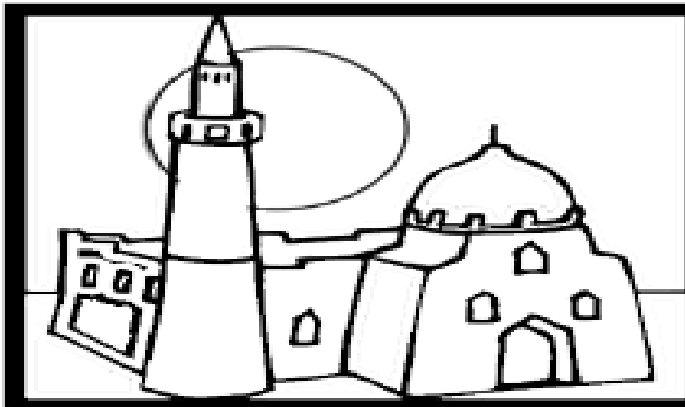
- ❧ There is always a fault sewn into the prayer mat.
- ❧ This deliberate mistake is there to remind Muslims that only Allah (God) can create perfection, not a mortal man.
- ❧ The faults are not usually visible, but Muslims know they are there.



Flowers - representing paradise



Repeating geometric patterns



Pictures of mosques



Arabic writing from the Qur'an. This reads 'Al Malik' ~ the King.

Which Islamic motifs do you like? Experiment with them on an outline mat. Draw your ideas with pencil, then colour them in with felt tips or pencil crayons. Include a central motif, borders, and intricate patterns.

Try to capture the unique colours of these beautiful rugs