



## Project 2: Mandala Art

Duration: 1 week

What students will learn:

Students will begin this project by learning about the Mandala. A Mandala means circle in Sanskrit, and is the Hindu and Buddhist graphic symbol of the universe. We will look at several different examples of Asian Mandalas. Students will create their own Mandala circle using the circle in a square concept. Students will finish their design by adding color, value, and pattern with watercolor pencils.

What we will need:

-books and images on Mandalas, pencils, watercolor paper, watercolor pencils, and brushes.

What we will do:

1. Read about Mandala Art and discuss how Mandalas have been used in Hindu and Buddhist cultures to promote spiritual awareness for many centuries. Discuss how many Mandala designs have a radial balance. Look at specific examples of radially balanced Mandalas.
2. Demonstrate to students how to do a circle in square mandala, repeating the shapes, and making sure each circle connects to a square and each square connects to the next circle.
3. Have students begin drawing their circle in square Mandala on a square sheet of watercolor paper. Keep repeating the pattern until it goes off of the page.
4. Outline the shapes with watercolor pencils. Apply more value around the edge of shapes. Paint water into the shapes to spread out the color and create a value range. Once the base layer has dried, draw patterns on top of some of the shapes. We thought it looked nice to have a balance of solid and patterned shapes.
5. Let watercolors dry, flatten any buckled work, and put these Mandalas on display!

Examine our work:

1. Did students understand the significance of the Mandala circle in Hindu and Buddhist cultures?
2. Did they follow instructions on how to draw out the circle in square design, paint color and value into their shapes using watercolor pencils, and finish their project with pattern?