

Traditional Rangoli Designs from India

The History of Rangoli Designs:

Rangoli is one of the most popular art forms in India. It is a form of decoration that uses finely ground white and colored powders, sands, and paste. Rangoli can be wall art as well as floor art. The designs are symbolic and common to the entire country of India. They include geometric patterns, using lines, dots, squares, circles, and triangles, as well as images from nature. The average size of these designs are two feet by two feet, but designs vary by location and medium used. A thin white line often outlines the colorful shapes. These images are very temporary, and are just supposed to be seen during times of celebration.



Photo by Flickr User Art Gallery of New South Wales



Photo by Flickr User Balaji.B

Traditionally, Rangoli floor decorations were created only for very special occasions or festivals. But today, they are used in weddings, birthday parties, and other events. Rangoli also has a religious significance. It enhances the beauty of its surroundings, spreading joy and happiness to all who see these works of art. During the Hindu celebration of Diwali, families create Rangoli designs at their doorsteps, to welcome everyone, including the Hindu goddess Lakshmi, who is said to bring good luck.

Where in the world is India?

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Make Your Own Rangoli Design:

You can make this project in: **1/2 hour**

There are two variations for this project, so choose whatever medium works best for you. You may use the templates for inspiration, or to trace designs.

What you will need:

Variation 1: Chalk on Sandpaper

- Sheet of Sandpaper
- Chalk
- Ruler

Variation 2: Glue and Colored Sand

- Cardstock or cereal box
- White glue
- Colored sand

How To:

Variation 1: Chalk on Sandpaper

1. Start by creating a dot grid using a ruler, making the dots as close or as far apart as you choose. The closer the dots are, the more complex your design will be.



2. Draw your design in chalk.



3. Use colored chalk to color in your design.



4. Now, display your Rangoli where everyone can see!



Variation 2: Glue and Colored Sand

1. Start by creating a dot grid using a ruler, making the dots as close or as far apart as you choose. The closer the dots are, the more complex your design will be.



2. Draw your design in pencil.



3. Fill in small areas of your design with the white glue, and sprinkle sand over the top. Shake off excess sand into a small container, and repeat, completing small areas at a time, so that the colors do not mix.



4. Now, display your Rangoli where everyone can see!



Think about this:

1. Why did you create the design that you did?
2. What do your symbols mean?
3. Can you think of a celebration that you would make a Rangoli design for?
4. What celebrations do you decorate your house for?

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