Pearl at Home

Art projects designed for family fun, for suggested ages of 5 and up to be completed at home with easily-accessible art materials.

MANDALAS

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MATERIALS

- **Substrate:** You choose! You can create mandalas on any surface, including rocks, paper, or clay. The provided template is sized for a 6.5 inch disc.
- **Pencil and eraser**
- **Colored pencils** or **crayons**
- **Acrylic paint** (various colors) and **brush**
- **Palette:** You can use a disposable plate as a palette
- **Tools to make dots:** Examples include tooth picks, skewers, clay tools, cake decorating tools, wooden dowels in several sizes, acrylic rods, etc.
- **Printer and printer paper**  • **Template** (provided on the last page)

DIRECTIONS

1 **Sketch your design**

Print the provided mandala pattern on regular paper. Use this pattern to sketch out a design with pencil, then color it in using colored pencils or crayons. This will be your practice pattern; you will later transfer the design onto your substrate.

**Mandalas** are geometric designs that are radially symmetrical. Some people use the patterns as a focus for meditation, and the various shapes and colors can symbolize certain things to the artist.

Experiment with color schemes – like all cool colors, all warm colors, monochromatic (shades of one color), or a mix!

You can create arcs, leaf shapes, circles, or other shapes that fit around the circle evenly.
2 Transfer your design
Use a pencil to apply graphite (pencil lead) to the BACK of your pattern. Flip the pattern back over and place it on top of your substrate. Try not to slide the pattern, or it might smear. You can use tape to secure it.

When you have your pattern in place, use a pencil to trace over the lines of your design. This will create an outline of your design on your substrate.

You can also trace some of the straight lines to help with your design, but you don’t need to draw all of them!

3 Paint your background
Using your sketch as a reference, paint the background of your mandala with a brush. Let it dry completely before the next step.

4 Add dots
Before you add the dots, test your paint consistency on a separate paper. Try to get a nicely-mounded dot that won’t spread. You can thin the acrylic paint with a little water or matte medium.

To finish your design, use an assortment of tools – like toothpicks, pen caps, or clay tools – to apply paint dots in a symmetrical pattern over your background.

TIP:
If you need to, you can lightly retrace the lines from the template onto your background using the instructions in Step 2. If your background is dark, use white or light-colored chalk instead of a pencil.
Mandala Pattern