

ISLAMIC PATTERNS

HELMET WITH LINING

The gold patterns created on this helmet are exquisite, and a great example of how patterns found in manuscript illumination can also be found on different objects, in different materials.



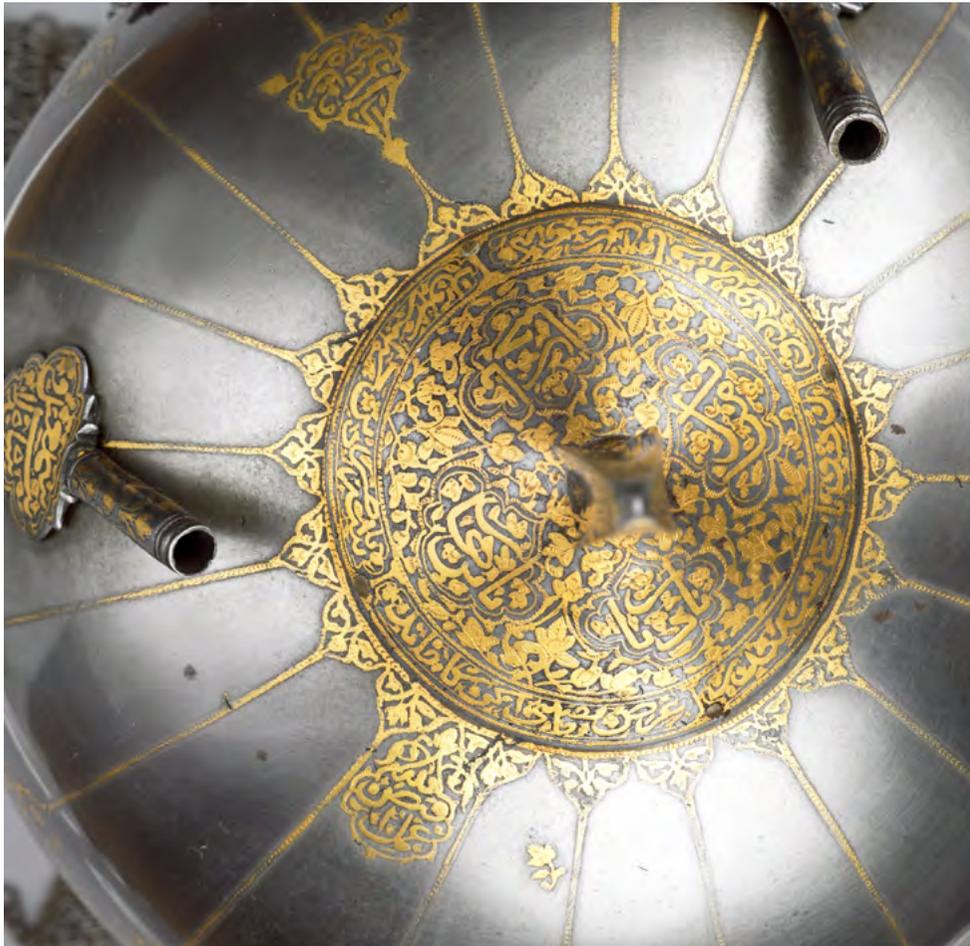
IN DETAIL



DATE Mid-17th century
MATERIALS Iron or steel, textiles and velvet
PLACE Iran

MAKER Unknown

IN DETAIL



RESEARCH & DISCUSS



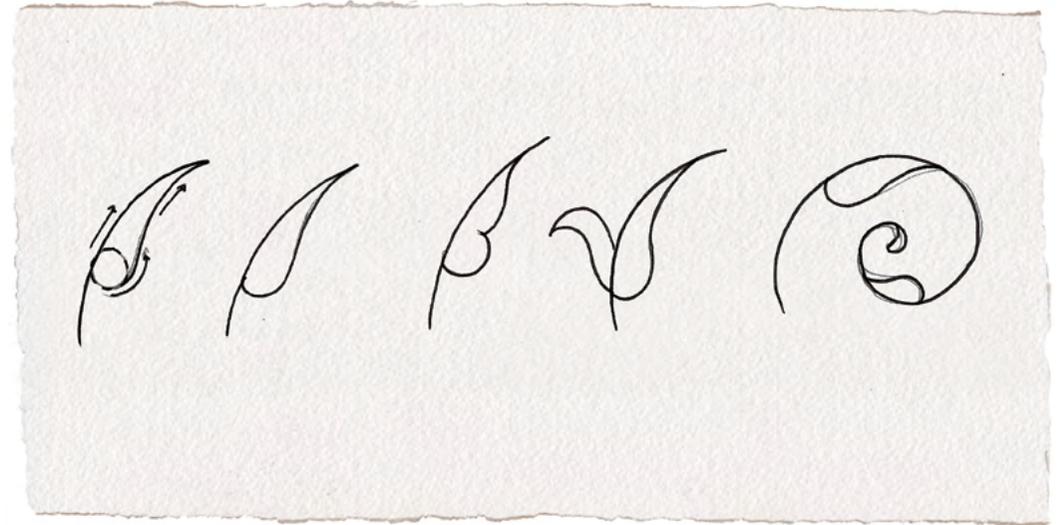
This helmet was made in the mid-17th century in an area which is now modern-day Iran.

- Who was ruling the region at the time?
- What was Iran known as previously?
- Which area did this encompass?
- Which countries does Iran border today?

ACTIVITY Rumi shapes

These are called 'Rumi' shapes, and are formed from leaf-like shapes around a small circle.

- Where can you find these shapes on the helmet?
- Practice drawing these shapes and the variations so you can incorporate them later.
- Look at all the shapes on the helmet. Can you work out any underlying geometric grids? Think about circles, and their centre points.



ACTIVITY Tepelik shapes



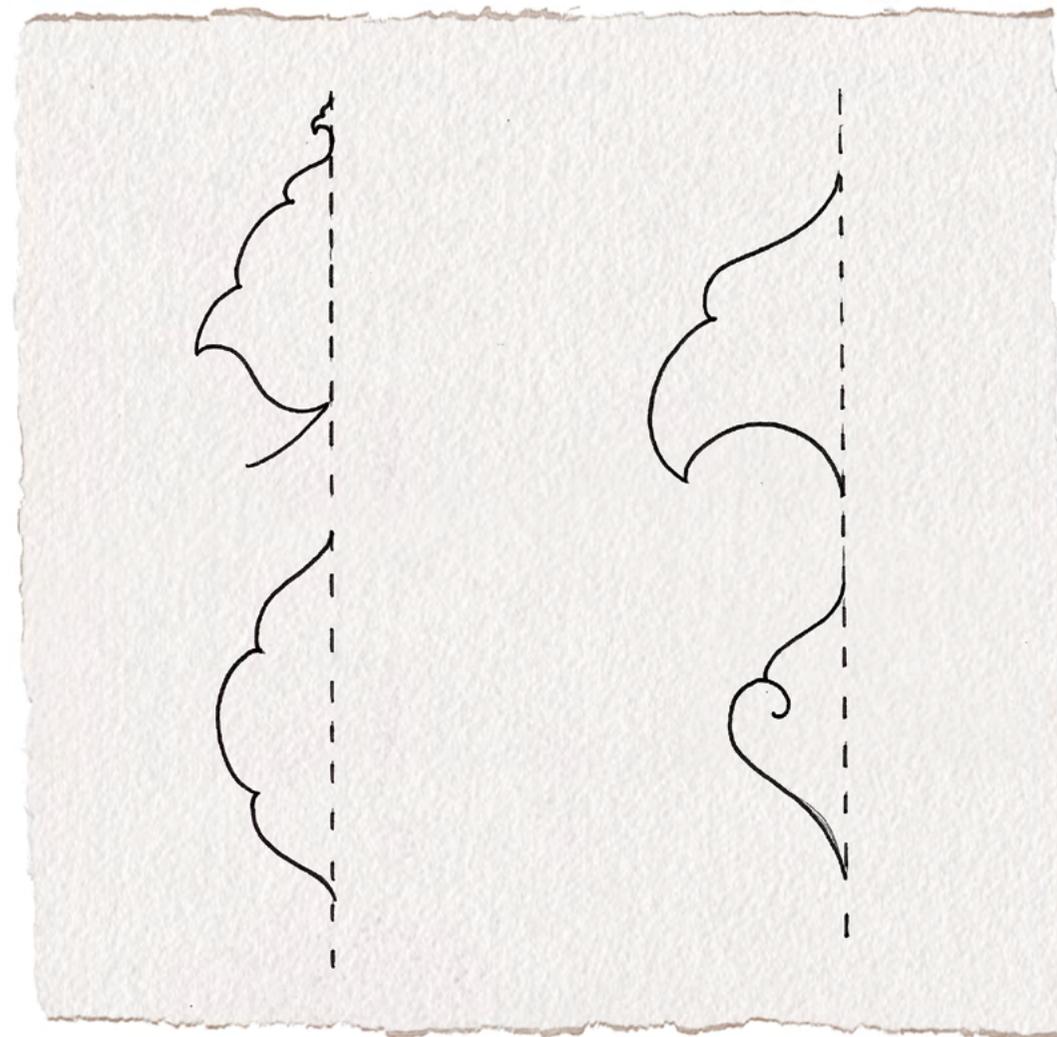
These are called 'tepelik' shapes. Tepelik comes from 'pointed' or 'hilltop' in Turkish. They are symmetrical in their full form, or attached to lines and spirals in halves.

- Can you see any variations on the helmet?
- Practice drawing these shapes and the variations so you can incorporate them later.
- Can you add any Rumi shapes to the insides of your Tepelik shapes like on the helmet?

RESEARCH & DISCUSS



- Where did the the Rumi and tepelik shapes derive from? What are they inspired by?
- Can you find other examples of these shapes in art and architecture?

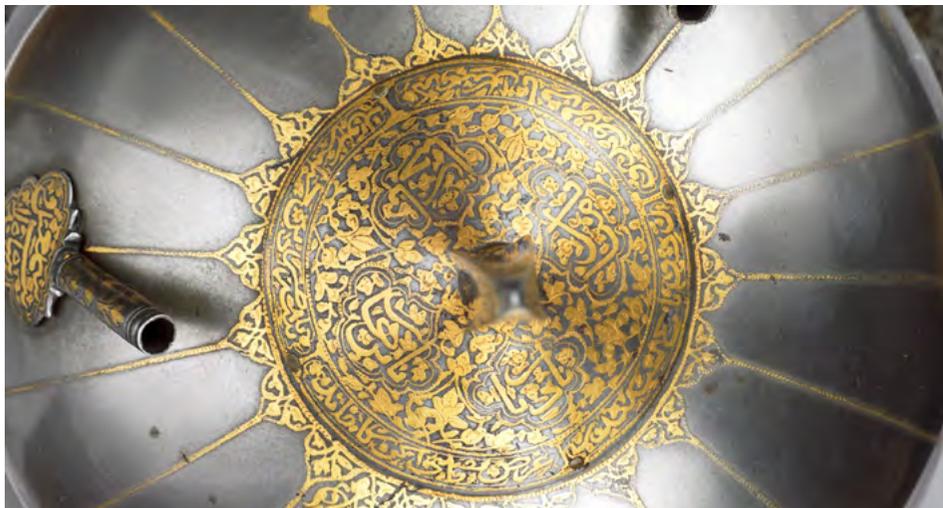
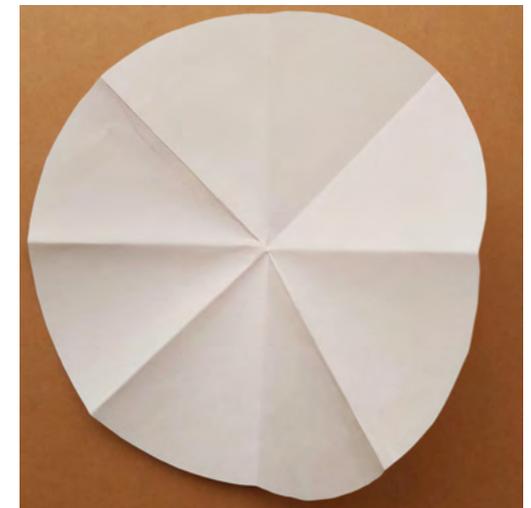
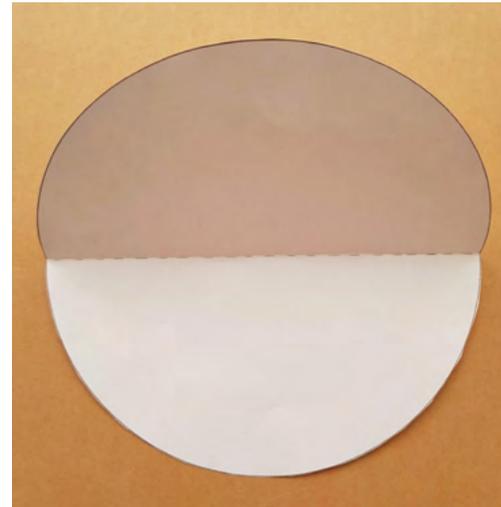


ACTIVITY Making a radial design: step 1



Look at the birds-eye view of the helmet. Follow the steps to recreate your own circular design. You will need: paper, pencil, tracing paper, compass, ruler.

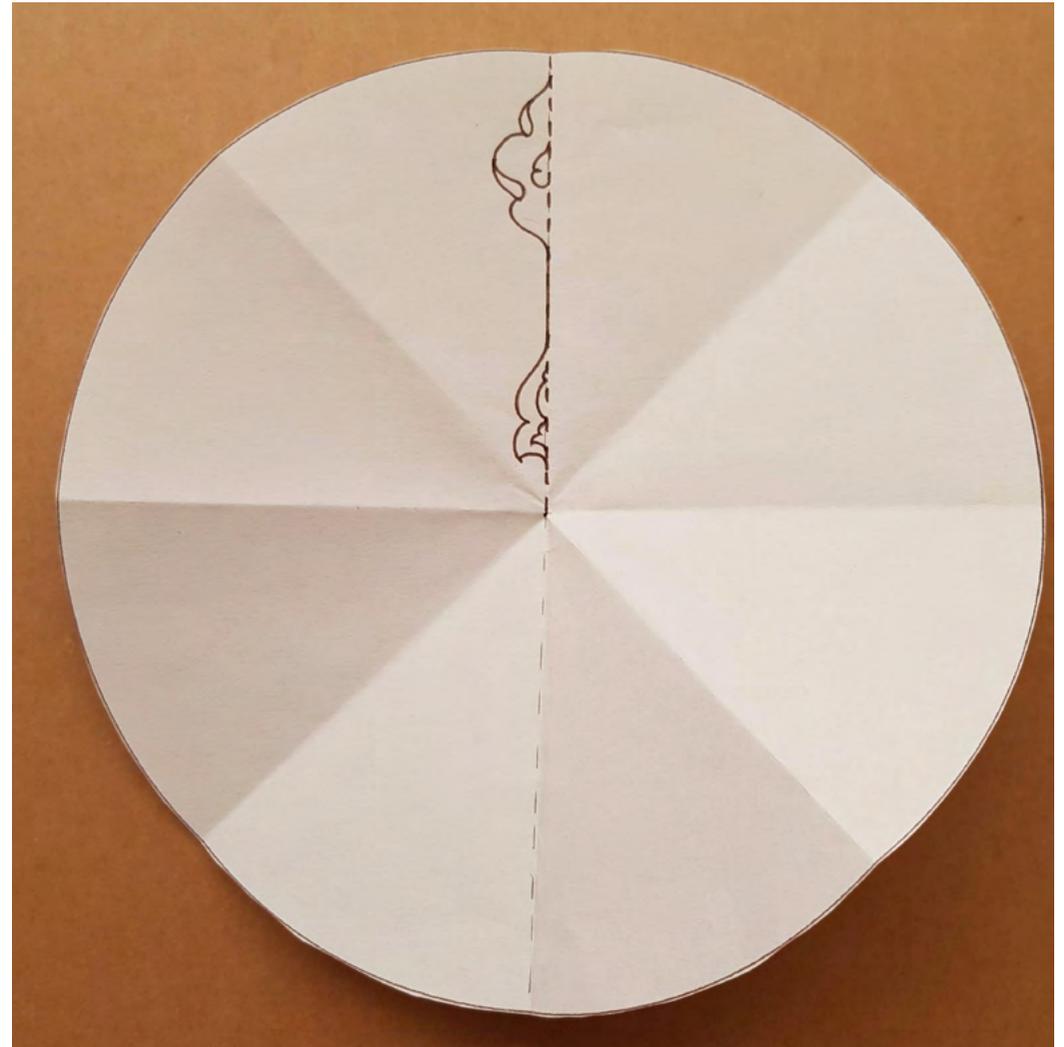
- Draw a circle with compass.
- Cut circle out.
- Fold to divide it into 2, then 4, and again into 8.
- Unfold it back into a circle.



ACTIVITY Making a radial design: step 2

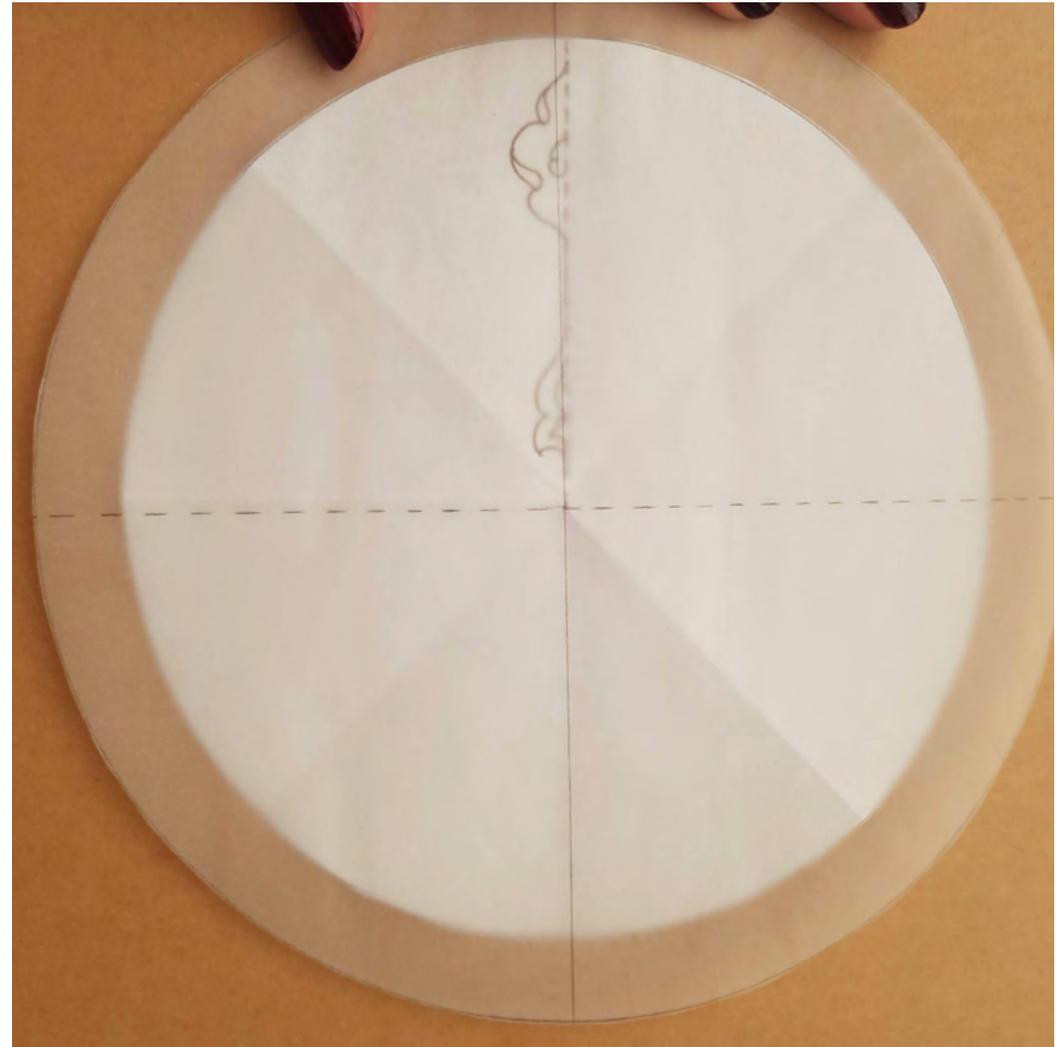


- Draw a pencil line along the folds.
- On one line, on one side, draw out a simple pattern. Include any tepelik and Rumi shapes, and any other shapes you feel inspired to add.



ACTIVITY Making a radial design: step 3

- Draw another circle with a slightly bigger radius on a piece of tracing paper, and fold to divide into 8. You can draw lines with a ruler along the folds if this helps.
- Lay the tracing paper over your paper circle. Trace your pattern, then fold your tracing paper along that line and repeat.



ACTIVITY Making a radial design: step 4



- When you unfold your tracing paper, you should see your pattern mirrored.
- Now fold the tracing paper again along the perpendicular line and repeat the tracing of your pattern.
- Rotate your tracing paper and repeat the process 3 more times until all 8 radial lines have the pattern on them.

