



World of Art – India – Rangoli

Here's What You Get!

- 6 Rangoli Designs
- 6 Bags of Colored Sand, 100 g each

Introduction

Rangoli is a traditional art from India. The name "rangoli" means "rows of colors." Artists create beautiful designs on a tabletop or floor using sand, flower petals, rice, flour, and crushed rocks. The patterns can be made of simple geometric shapes or more elaborate designs with flowers, leaves, and birds.

Long ago, many homes in India did not have wood, tiles, or carpet on the floor. The dirt floors could attract insects. People discovered that certain crushed stones could keep insects away. They made designs near their doors using cereal flour and powdered calcite and limestone. The cereal attracted the insects, but the powdered stone prevented the insects from entering the home.

Today many Hindu families create simple rangoli designs every day to represent love, happiness, and health. A rangoli decoration is thought to bring good luck and prosperity to the family, and to welcome guests. Parents teach their children how to make the designs to continue the tradition.

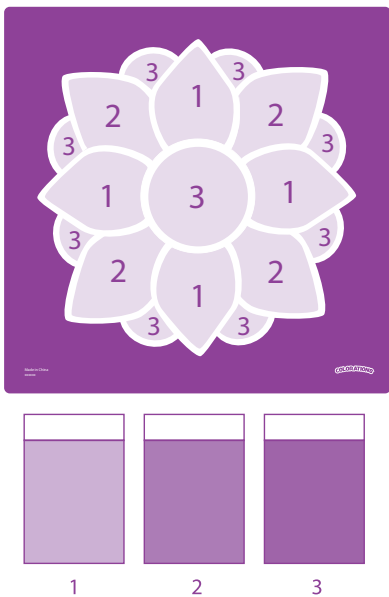
Very elaborate designs with lots of detail are created during Indian festivals and holidays such as Diwali, Tihar, and Onam as well as special occasions like birthdays and weddings. The rangoli design can be very large – several people can work on one design for many days. They add special symbols and lots of bright colors to the rangoli to celebrate India's rich heritage. Today, rangoli might be used to fill a hotel lobby or cover a whole street to mark special occasions.

To make a rangoli, the artist draws a center point such as a circle, square, or other shape with white chalk, sand, or paint. Next the artist adds geometric or nature-inspired shapes around the center. Finally, the artist includes special details to create an intricate design. Once the drawing is complete, the artist add color with sand, powdered rock, seeds, grains, or flowers. Some modern rangoli artists also use paints or special dyes. Sometimes the artists will add small candles to make the design glow.

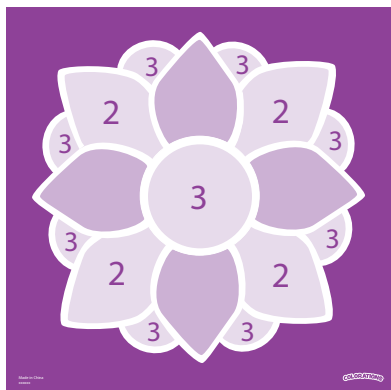
Use the designs and colored sand to make your own rangoli!

First, prepare your work surface. Find a flat surface and a large sheet of paper that you can fold – notebook paper or even newspaper will be fine.

World of Art – India – Rangoli (continued)

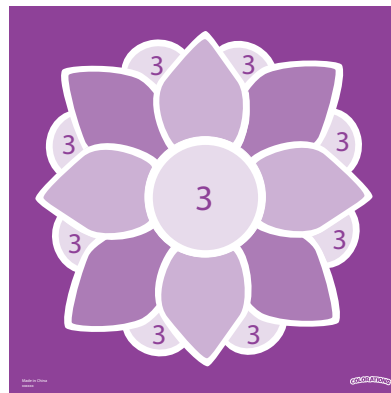


Pick a simple design with large shapes and the numbers 1, 2, and 3. Then pick three colors of sand. Decide which color will be number 1, which color will be number 2, and which color will be number 3.



Find all the number 1's on your design. Carefully peel off the protective papers to expose the sticky adhesive. Sprinkle sand color number 1 on the sticky areas and pat the sand so it sticks firmly.

Gently tap the back of the design and tip it so the loose sand falls onto the large sheet of paper. Fold the paper to make it easy to put this loose sand back in the bag. You can use it for another design.



Find all the number 2's and peel off the papers. Sprinkle sand color number 2 on the sticky areas, pat it down, then tap it off and put the loose sand back in the bag.



Find all the number 3's and repeat the process. You can make more rangolis. Pick another design and select your colors. Repeat the process of finding the numbers, peeling off the papers, and sprinkling the sand. Try drawing your own rangoli designs too!