

Mehndi Art Gloves

Practice this art form from India - without staining the skin! **(art + social studies)**

Originating in ancient India, Mehndi is the artistic application of henna to the hands and feet. This tradition is usually part of a wedding ceremony, special occasion or festival as a means of personal adornment. Intricate designs are applied from a cone-shaped tube with a tiny opening for the henna. Repeating patterns, paisley, sun shapes, animals and plants are traditionally used for designs, but Mehndi artists enjoy using their personal creativity and vision.

In the classroom, students can practice the art of Mehndi without staining their skin by creating a "Mehndi Glove." This lesson plan leads the way through creating radial point designs in permanent marker while the glove is being worn. The sense of touch as the design is being created is an important part of the process. Students with special needs and children with compulsions may find it especially beneficial.



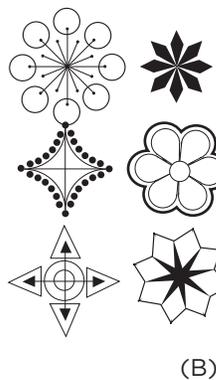
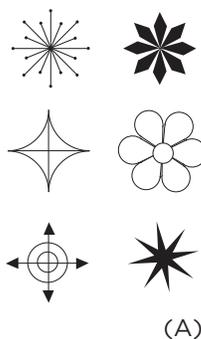
GRADES K-12 *Note: instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 25 students. Adjust as needed.*

Preparation

1. For best results, wash the gloves in warm, soapy water to remove powder. Rinse with clear water and dry.
2. View examples of Mehndi and Hindu art. Resource: [Dover Pictura Electronic Clip Art Book and CD](#); [Designs from India](#) (71310-1015).

Process

1. Place glove so it fits on hand as snugly as possible. Rings and bracelets should be removed first. Avoid overstretching or puncturing the glove.
2. Mark nine points, as equally spaced as possible, on the front and back side of the hand area of the glove.
3. Choose one point and begin a simple radial design, based on 4, 6 or 8 radius. See (A). Repeat the same design on another point on the other side of the glove.
4. Choose another point and create a simple radial design different from the first. Repeat on the other side of the glove. On the last two points, create a radial design different from the first two.
5. Returning to the first design, add another radial design onto it. It could be another layer of the design, or completely different from the first. See (B).
6. Continue to the next set of points and add to those designs.



Materials

Gloves, need one per student, select from the following options:

[Montana™ Latex Gloves](#), black, assorted sizes (04700-)

[Latex Powdered Gloves](#), assorted sizes (35200-)

[Hy-Gloss™ Gloves for Kids](#), assorted colors (32935-1100)

[Nitrile Powder-Free Disposable Gloves](#), assorted sizes (35200-)

[Bic® Mark-It Permanent Markers](#), 24-color set (22165-1024); share 3-4 sets among class

For black gloves, recommend [Sakura® Permapaque® Fine Point Markers](#), 16-color set (21377-0169); share among class

Process, continued

7. Repeat this process until the radial designs touch one another. Keep filling spaces until the entire glove is designed.
8. Allow ink to dry completely before removing glove.

Options

1. When not being worn, display the Mehndi glove in one of the following ways:
 - Inflate and secure the glove at the neck
 - place it on a [Hand Manikin](#) (21611-0200)
 - stuff it with [Polyester Flufferfill](#) (66902-1006)
2. For longer-wearing designs, apply a light coat of [Blair® Matte Finish](#) (21708-9006) to both sides of the glove.

National Standards for Visual Arts Education

Content Standard #3 — Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas.

- K-4** Students explore and understand prospective content for works of art.
- 5-8** Students integrate visual, spatial, and temporal concepts with content to communicate intended meaning in their artworks.
- 9-12** Students reflect on how artworks differ visually, spatially, temporally, and functionally, and describe how these are related to history and culture.

Content Standard #4 Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures.

- K-4** Students demonstrate how history, culture, and the visual arts can influence each other in making and studying works of art.
- 5-8** Students know and compare the characteristics of artworks in various eras and cultures.
- 9-12** Students differentiate among a variety of historical and cultural contexts in terms of characteristics and purposes of works of art.



Mark nine points, as equally spaced as possible, on both sides of the glove.



Choose one point and create a simple radial design around it. Repeat same design on the other side of the glove. Create a different design on another point, continue the process on all points.



Return to the first radial design and expand it with more of the design. Continue adding to the design around each point, slowly building them outward until the designs touch.

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