

Middle Ages
Invictus Classical Press

Fine Arts: Middle Ages

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CLASSICAL PRESS

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Welcome to the Invictus Classical Press Ancient Art Projects!

We at ICP believe that there is truth, goodness, and beauty to be found in the Classical method and Charlotte Mason pedagogy. This curriculum seeks to bring what people love best of each, together into one comprehensive resource.

A Classical Charlotte Mason education is motivated by God's glory and utilizes beautiful and true material within the Trivium-based method. Its goal is the formation and equipping of the whole person made in God's image, who can learn, reason, and persuade people to the enduring truths of God and act virtuously toward their neighbor.

MIDDLE AGES

ART PROJECT



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LESSON 1

MIDDLE EASTERN TILE PAINTING

(CORRELATES WITH INVICTUS VOL. 2 MW= WEEK 4, 6, 7)

"Geometry is knowledge of the eternally existent."
~ Pythagoras

DESCRIPTION

Students will learn about the general history of ceramic tile before focusing on Islamic tile. They will then design their own geometric or arabesque pattern and paint a set of tiles to take home.

MATERIALS

- Invictus Fine Art Picture Study: *Poetry in a Garden*
- Invictus Template: Geometric tile designs (one/student)
- 4, 4 x 4 porcelain or ceramic tiles (one/student)
- Acrylic paint in various colors
- Paint brushes
- Paper plates (one/student)
- Acrylic Sealer (like Mod Podge)
- Rubbing alcohol
- Cotton fluffs
- Paper, pencils, and pencil crayons
- Adhesive cork backing (optional)
- Paper bags (1 per student)
- Painted tile samples
- Pictures of middle eastern tiles
- Various templates of designs for the students to imitate (optional)
- Library books about middle eastern art



VOCABULARY

Geometry: The branch of mathematics that studies the size, shapes, positions, angles and dimensions of things.

Calligraphy: The art of beautiful writing.

DIRECTIONS

PREPARE

1. Obtain supplies and then experiment with a few tiles at home so that you can help the students if required.
2. Print Invictus template.
3. Cut out paper tiles for the students to practice on (optional).

INSTRUCT

Explain to the students that today they will be studying middle eastern tile art, which is an intricate, beautiful art form found in mosques, mausoleums, and other important buildings throughout the middle east. Tile art found in the middle east is often richly colored and intricately designed. It generally eschews any kind of human representation so that there is no danger of idolatry taking place. Three common themes in middle eastern tile art are geometric designs, floral patterns, and calligraphy.

WHAT IS GEOMETRY?

Geometry is a branch of mathematics that studies the size, shapes, positions, angles and dimensions of things.

Geometric designs are made of regular lines and repeated shapes that are rotated and reflected to create repeating patterns. They are used to express the intricate logic and order of the universe and one can get lost in the patterns that seem to go on forever. They are almost kaleidoscopic in form.



Eight-Pointed Star-Shaped Tile
(13th century)

Floral and plant-like patterns feature curving lines, flower and leaf motifs, vases, and vines. These patterns demonstrate appreciation for the created order of the universe and the beauty found in the natural world.



Tile with floral motifs (1600)

Calligraphy, or the “art of beautiful writing,” can be found on mosque tiles and in the Qur’an. Calligraphy is often found interspersed within geometric and floral patterns.



Panel of Four Calligraphic Tiles (1300-1425)

PICTURE STUDY

Take some time to show the students some examples of tile art by either passing around some books depicting it, or use the Invictus Picture study to create a conversation with the students. Give them a couple of minutes to examine. Ask them what they see and have them trace the patterns with their fingers. Talk about the colors and ask them what emotions they might connect to the colors used.

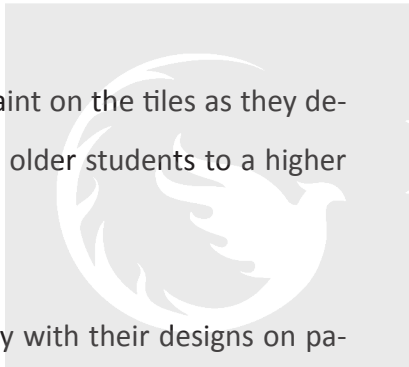
1. Hand out paper and pencils to the students. Depending on the size of the tiles you were able to obtain, have them measure out the length and width for each of the four tiles they are going to use. Alternatively, you could cut separate pieces for each student based on the size of tile you were able to find, then they can “arrange” them as they wish.



Older students should sketch their ideas for their four tiles on paper and experiment with colors before they paint. They may want to create a four-tile scene, or individual tiles. Encourage them to arrange the tiles in a way they are happy with: individual, four-high, four-wide, or four-square. The Invictus Template is a great example of a four-square scene.



Younger students can simply paint on the tiles as they desire but do attempt to hold the older students to a higher level of artistic expression.



2. When the students are happy with their designs on paper, hand out the tiles, paint, and paintbrushes. Encourage them to paint carefully, but if they do make a mistake, use the rubbing alcohol and cotton fluff to erase the paint before it dries.



3. When the paintings are finished set them aside and allow them to dry. When they are dry, spray them with the acrylic sealer and allow to dry further.



4. When completely dry, stick the adhesive cork backing on, take some pictures, and then place the tiles in the paper bags to go home.

