

Mexican Folk Art & Geometry

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Time Needed: 30 minutes

Arts Focus: Visual Arts
Math Focus: Geometry

Age Range: K-3

Mini-Lesson Description: In this lesson, learners will explore and learn to identify, describe, draw, and compose geometric shapes (e.g., circles, triangles, squares, rectangles and more). Inspired by Mexican folk art, learners will create their own art piece using only geometric shapes.

Key Concepts: Geometry; Geometric Shapes; Identify; Tracing; Sorting; Composing; Traditional Arts; Cultural Arts; Mexican Folk Art

Materials Needed/Prep:

- Paper
- Sharpie marker or any dark marker for outlining
- Markers, color pencils, or paints for filling in shapes
- Optional: examples of Mexican folk art (*art you have, in books, or from web searches*)

Step-by-Step:

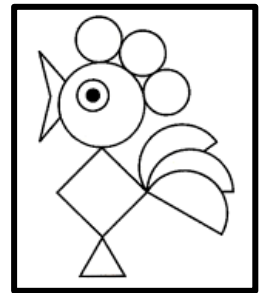
Discussion

1. Geometry is the study of shapes in the world. “Geo” means earth! “Metry” means measure!
 - Ask the learner(s): What geometric shapes do you know? (e.g., circles, triangles, squares, rectangles).
 - Review geometrical shapes.
2. Folk Art helps to tell the story of the daily life and culture of a community. Mexican folk art is unique and beautiful—it is very colorful and full of geometric shapes.
3. Share some examples of Mexican folk art. Give the learner(s) a few minutes to identify any geometric shapes they recognize. Compare different types of shapes, lines, colors, and patterns.



Draw a Rooster with Geometric Shapes

4. Using paper and a pencil or marker, create the outline of a Mexican folk art inspired rooster.
5. Use different geometric shapes like circles, squares, triangles, half circles, to create the rooster. Use the sample image here as a guide.
6. Using your colored pencils, markers, or paint, fill in the geometric shapes with bright colors. Think back to the colorful Mexican folk art examples.
7. Present and celebrate what you have created.



Variations and Next Steps:

- Use pre-cut geometric shapes to construct your art piece or for tracing.
- Read the story [Round is Mooncake](#) and talk about round and circle shapes found in the house or classroom.
- Geometric Shape Finder Game: hold up geometric shape (e.g., circle, triangle...) and have learners name or find objects in their house or classroom that match the paper shape.

Standards

WA State Visual Arts Anchor Standard 1:Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work. **Performance Standard:** Engage in exploration and imaginative play with materials.

Math Standard: (CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.K.G.A.1) Describe objects in the environment using names of shapes, and describe the relative positions of these objects using terms such as *above*, *below*, *beside*, *in front of*, *behind*, and *next to*.

Watch a video of this Creative Start Mini-Lesson and find more at: <https://www.arts.wa.gov/creative-start-studio/>