

Design Your Own Tiles

An activity of "Discovering Singapore's heritage in old tiles"

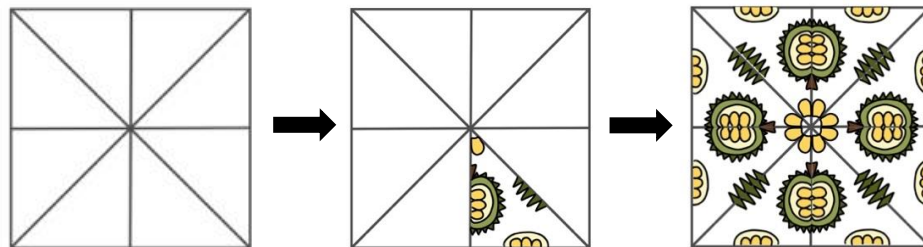
Read "**Discovering Singapore's heritage in old tiles**" (page 12-13, *What's Up* February 2020) In the article, Jennifer Lim discovered many cross-cultural design elements (e.g. Japanese farmhouses, pumpkins, English Roses) in the Peranakan tiles she encountered. She commented, "The way that the Straits Chinese have used these imported products and applied to them to their own situations shows a very open mind."

- 1) Can you think of other examples of cross-cultural products that you have noticed in your neighborhood? (e.g. "Nasi Lemak Burger")
- 2) What are some of your favourite imported products found in your home today? Where do they come from? Make a list. (e.g. Durians from Malaysia)
- 3) From your list, choose one product to design your very own tile motif.

Step 1: Fold a small square of paper lengthwise and diagonally till you have divided the paper into 8 equal segments.

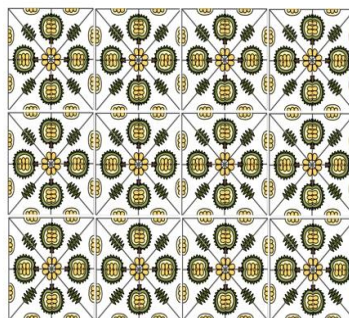
Step 2: Make a drawing or pattern that represents your product in one of the segments.

Step 3: Copy it to the other segments, flipping it every other segment. Done!

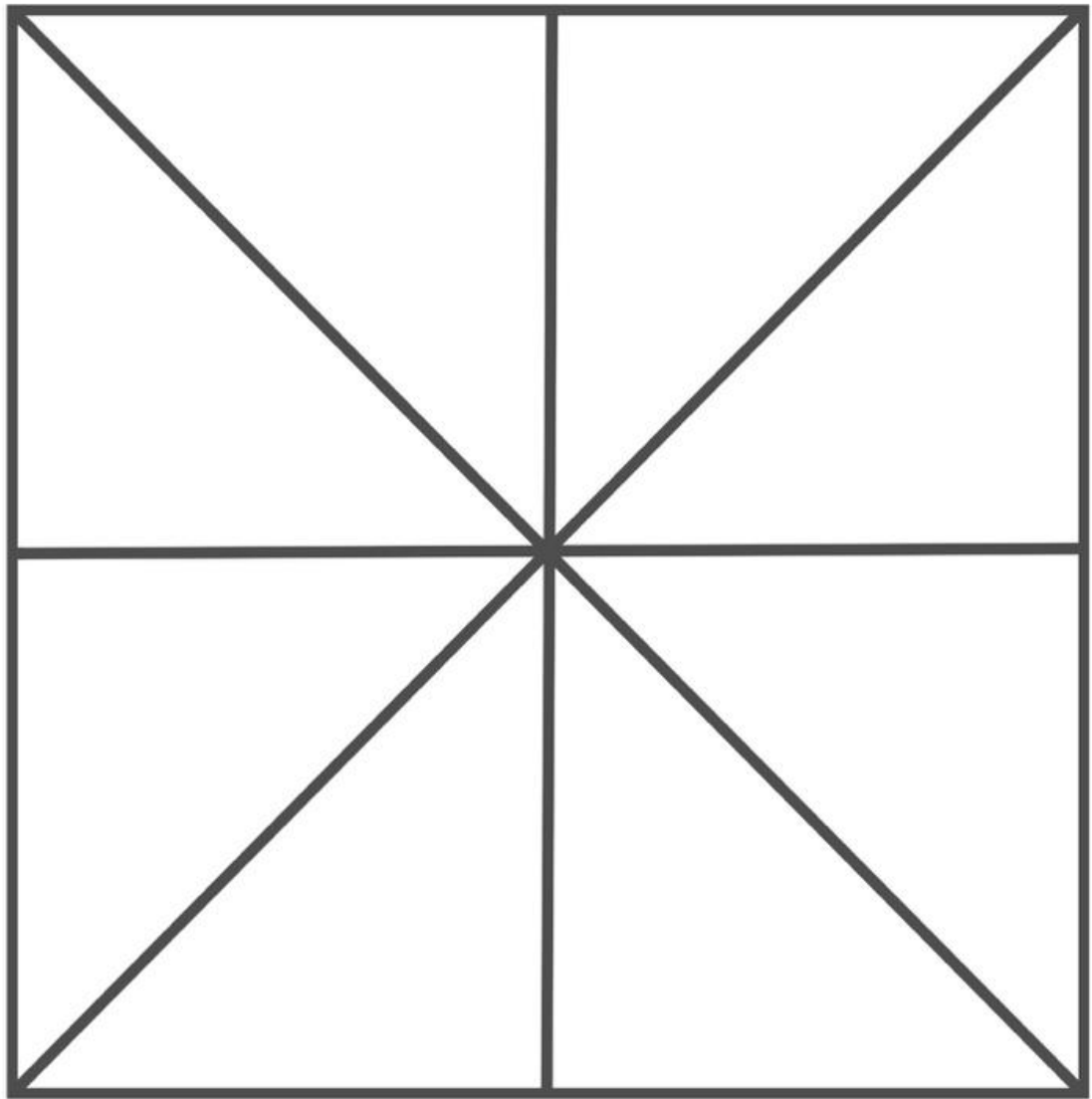


The square you have just made is now a repeatable unit called a motif.

You can arrange multiple copies of these motifs, edge to edge, to create tile patterns like this one.



Use this template to draft your tile motif.



1) Why did you decide on this motif design?

2) What do the elements symbolise?
