

Umbrellas That Cover Us All

An activity of "My stuff: umbrella".

Read the articles "My stuff: Umbrella" and "How to give women's sports a fairer chance" (pages 24-25, *What's Up* September 2023).

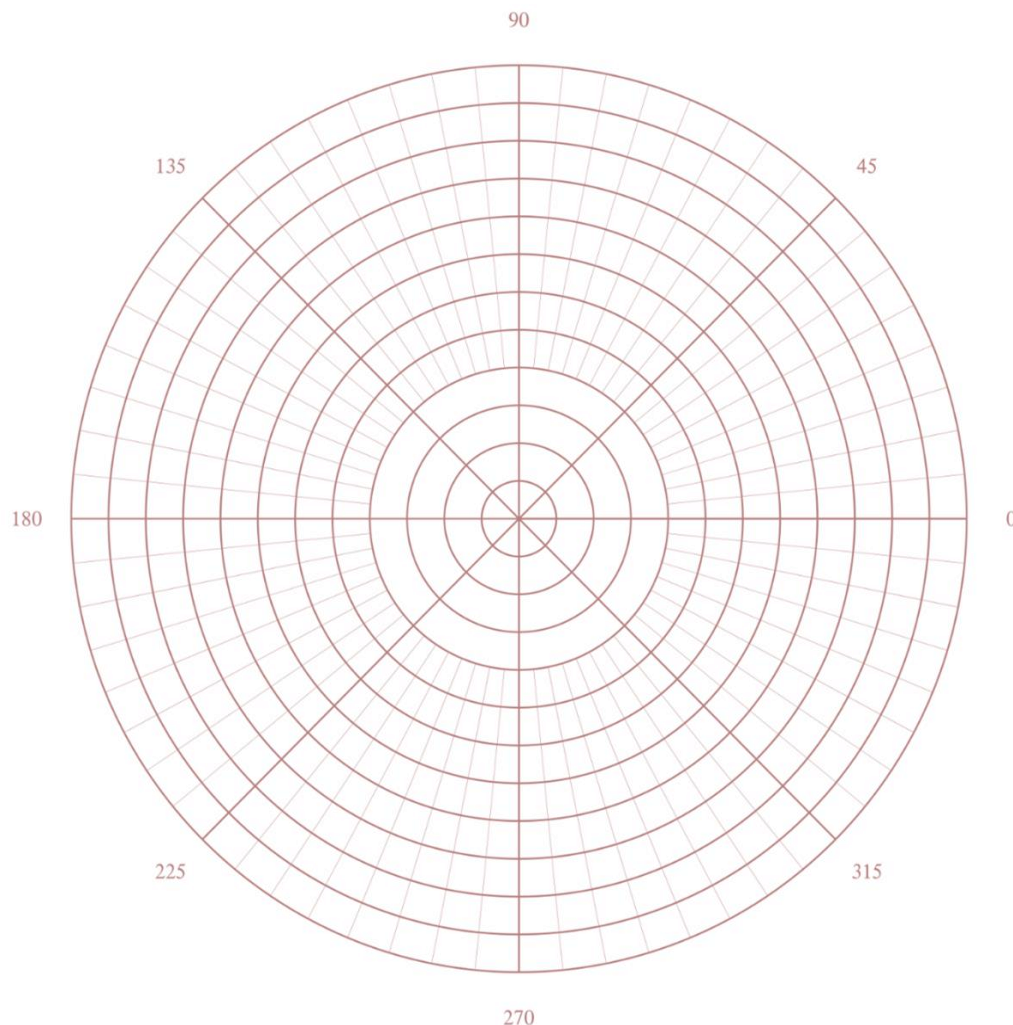
1. In mathematics, symmetry means that one shape is identical to another shape when it is moved, rotated or flipped. Observe how symmetry is used in creating a mandala:

How to draw mandala for beginners

➤ <https://youtube.com/shorts/-cvmRF1PqMI?feature=shared>

(Vanitha Arts, 26 May 2022)

2. Use this template ↓ to create a mandala design for an umbrella. The mandala is a symbol of harmony, equality, and balance. Let your mandala symbolise a more balanced world with fewer biases and stereotypes.



For a larger version, print out a downloaded template from:

<https://graph-paper.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Polar-Graph-Paper.png>

3. Based on the article and your own observations, list some examples of gender stereotypes within their categories.

Examples of Gender Stereotypes

Category	Type of Gender Stereotype	How people can challenge this
<i>e.g.</i> Occupation	<i>Nursing is seen as a woman's occupation while engineering is seen as a man's job.</i>	<i>Be welcoming of male nurses and female engineers.</i>
Family roles & duties		
Sports		
Emotional expression		
Dressing & physical appearance		
Leisure: games, books, movies		

4. Fill in the blanks to write a short story about an imaginary world where gender stereotypes don't exist.

Once upon a time, in a land called Harmonia, gender stereotypes did not exist. In Harmonia, children had their futures shaped, not by the expectations of their gender but by their passions and talents. They could _____

There were no distinctions between boys' toys and girls' toys. Instead, _____

Take the example of Sam, the little girl who loved _____. While in a gender-biased world, this would have been laughed at, in Harmonia, it was perfectly normal, along with liking _____

Or take the example of Alex, the little boy who enjoyed _____. While in another gender-biased world, this would have been frowned upon, in Harmonia, this was encouraged, along with other things like _____

In the sporting arena, both male and female sports people were equally respected. For instance, Andrea was highly regarded as a formidable women's soccer player. In a gender-biased world, she would have been _____ and _____. In Harmonia, she was _____. Women's soccer was _____ in Harmonia.

James, a nurse, would have been _____ and _____. But, in Harmonia, he was _____. Nursing was _____ in Harmonia.

Hence, there were boundless possibilities in Harmonia. Every Harmonian was free to follow their heart, wherever it might lead.