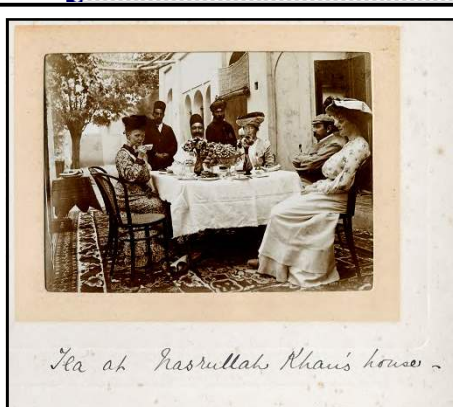


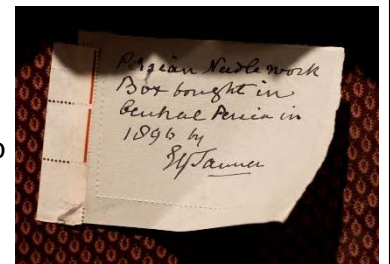
Enjoy creating a beautiful repeat pattern design to decorate a textile square or tile.

Take inspiration from exquisite embroideries, textiles and tiles from Iran and Syria, given to the Holburne Museum by an intrepid Victorian collector and traveller.



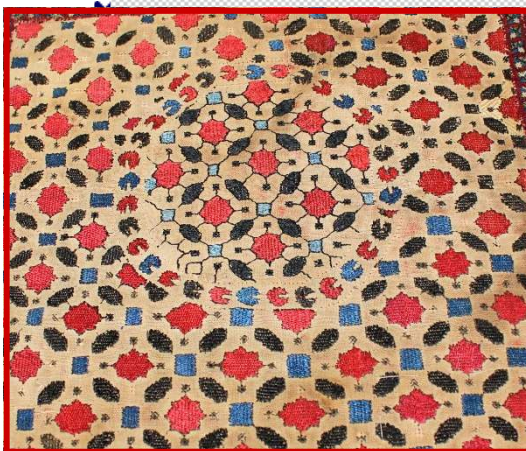
## From Bath to Baghdad

Ellen Georgiana Tanner (1874–1937) was among the first British women to travel solo to the Middle East. In 1894 she set off by steamer to Baghdad, Iraq, beginning a journey overland on horseback into Persia (now Iran) accompanied only by local guides, staying in caravanserais along the route, and exploring the bazaars of Baghdad, Shiraz, Teheran and Isfahan.



*(images from objects in the Holburne collection)*

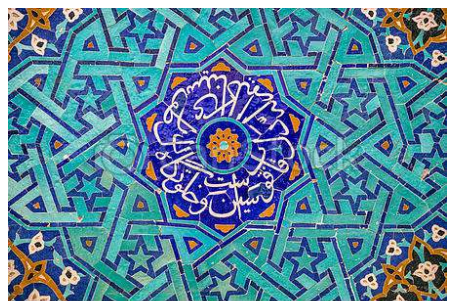
The richly decorated embroidered and hand-printed textiles she bought show geometric and repeated patterns, taking inspiration from nature, religious symbolism and the history of the region.



# Persian pattern—Inspiration board



Part of a printed panel used inside a tent. The **paisley pattern** is an ornamental textile design using the Persian *buta*, a teardrop-shaped motif with a curved upper end.



All textiles from Miss Tanner's collection, Holburne Museum.

Examples of tiles and stained glass from buildings in Iran.



## Activity

**Create a repeat pattern square design.**  
Be inspired by the **colours** and **patterns** in traditional Iranian and Syrian textiles and decorative arts.

Start playing with ideas on a piece of paper:

- Begin with simple shapes and repeat them to make patterns (either draw or cut out from coloured paper)
- Where will these be positioned on your square?
- Will you have a different image in the middle of the square?
- Use a ruler to divide up your square into sections

**Now colour in patterns**  
or  
**use cut out collage shapes to build up repeating patterns**  
or  
**Use colour, collage and sequins to make a mixed-media square**



### You need

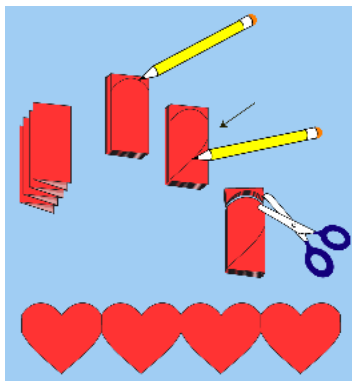
Print and cut out one of the square patterns on page 4 & 5

### OR

Draw a 14cm x 14cm square onto some card/ paper  
Scrap paper

### Suggestions for materials

Ruler  
Pencil/ coloured pencils or pens  
Paints  
Scissors and Pritt stick  
Collage paper  
Gold paper/ wrappers  
Sequins?



**A quick way of making copies of the same shape ...**

Fold colour paper into a concertina  
Cut out shape  
Unfold to see repeating pattern

**To make a circular motif**

Fold paper square diagonally and repeat 3-4 times. Cut small shapes from sides and tip to create a paper snow-flake effect when unfolded



**Share a photo of what you make!**  
Send to [e.blythe@holburne.org](mailto:e.blythe@holburne.org) and check out  
[Instagram @changing\\_lives\\_through\\_art](https://www.instagram.com/changing_lives_through_art)



