

# a-AQ!N

Learning heritage languages through artistic  
and innovative approaches

## Create a clock to learn Arabic numbers

In this creative and linguistic workshop, participants learn the numbers 1 to 12 in Arabic by creating a personalized clock. After watching a video tutorial, they create their own clock face—on cardstock or wood—and decorate the center with a geometric ornament inspired by Islamic art. The activity combines vocabulary learning, oral and written expression, cultural discovery, and artistic work.



# Create a clock to learn Arabic numbers



**Participant Profile:** From 12 years old

**Number of Participants:** 4- 20 Participants

**Duration:** 1 hour 30 minutes to 2 hours

## Materials:

- Paper/Cardboard Option: Cardstock or thick cardboard, scissors, glue, colored pencils or markers, paper clips to attach the hands, templates for Arabic numerals 1 to 12, circular clock template (optional)
- Wood option (artistic version): round or square light wood plaque (MDF or plywood, 20–30 cm), acrylic paint, fine brushes, stencils, compasses or rulers to create geometric patterns, paint markers or pyrography pen (optional), clock hands and mechanism. These items can be easily purchased online (e.g. Amazon, Etsy, Cultura, or craft stores). For example, search for: "quartz clock mechanism + hands".

**Language skills:** Oral comprehension, Written comprehension, Thematic vocabulary

**Other skills:** Creativity, Artistic skills, Cultural skills

**Level :** A1

**Developed by / Origin / Languages:** Kata Keresztely, COTA NGO/Arabic

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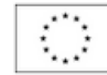


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## Create a clock to learn Arabic numbers Step-by-step activity:



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### 1. Introduction et inspiration

Introduce the Arabic numerals from 1 to 12 using a poster or visual aid.

Watch the YouTube video together: Learn Arabic numbers by creating a clock. This video introduces the idea of the clock as a visual and manual learning tool.

Discuss with participants numbers, colors, and decorative ideas.



# Create a clock to learn Arabic numbers

## Step-by-step activity:



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### 2. Discover and be inspired by Islamic geometric ornaments

- Before decorating the clock face, participants are invited to explore traditional geometric patterns from Islamic art, which are widely used in architecture, mosaics, ceramics, and manuscripts. These patterns are based on simple shapes (circles, stars, squares, hexagons) repeated with great precision.

- Show a short video or illustrated presentation explaining these reasons. Example:

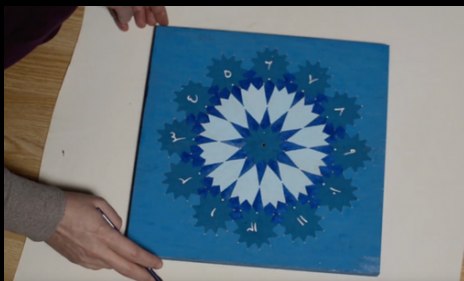
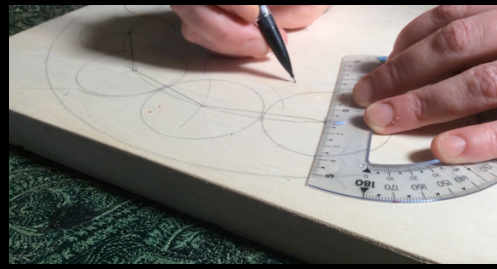
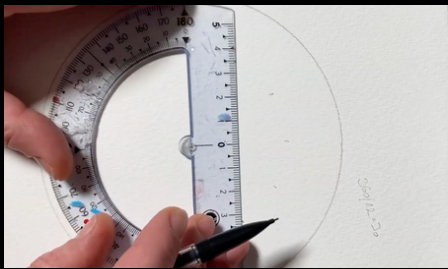
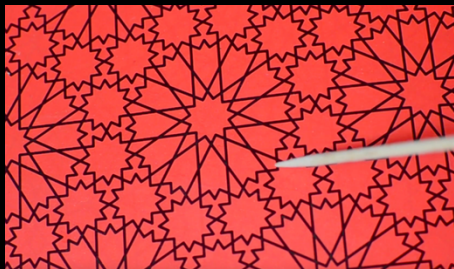
[Introduction to Islamic Geometric Design – by Eric Broug \(YouTube, anglais\)](#)

[Pattern in Islamic Art – high-resolution pattern database](#)

- Active research (in pairs or individually): Give participants some printed or digital sources.

Their mission: identify a pattern they like, briefly describe its shape or copy it, understand how it is constructed (central circle, symmetry, repetition, etc.)

- Create your own central ornament
  - integrate this creation into the center of the clock on paper or wood.
  - Reproduce a pattern you have found, or create a personal pattern inspired by the shapes you have observed
  - Think about symmetry (often 6, 8 or 12 points to correspond to the hours)
- Decorative option: use colors, gilding, black outlines.



## Create a clock to learn Arabic numbers Step by step activity:



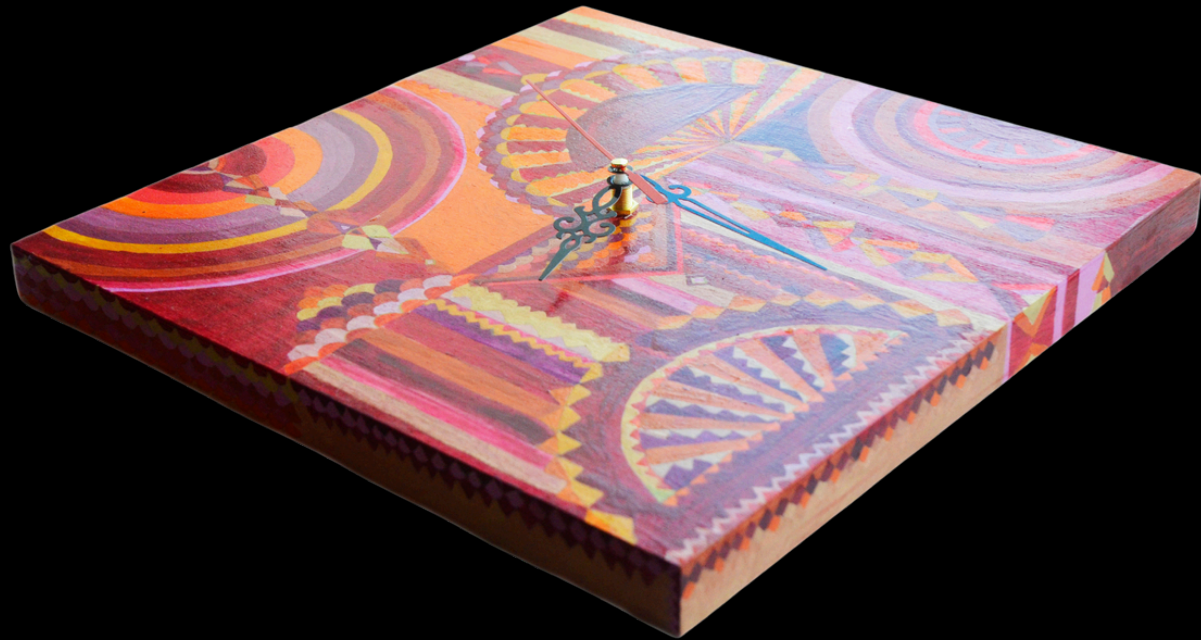
**a** **ـ** **A** **Q** **!** **N**

3. Add the Arabic numerals around the dial.

Install a clock mechanism (optional) or cardboard hands.

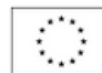
- **Online variant**

- Create the clock on Canva, Tayasui Sketches or other digital tool.
- Use a collaborative board (Padlet, Jamboard) to publish creations.
- Integrate a video or audio capsule where each participant pronounces the numbers of their creation.



RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADAPTATIONS

## Recommendations for teachers



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### Prepare the vocabulary:

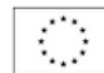
- Introduce the numbers 1 to 12 in Arabic before the activity.
- Provide a memo sheet with the numbers written in Arabic and phonetically.
- Watch the video in class:
- Show YouTube Tutorial – Create a Clock as an introduction.
- Pause at each key step to check understanding.

### Adapt according to the level:

- For beginners: provide a template to complete.
- For more advanced students: include a descriptive sentence or the complete expression of the time in Arabic.
- Include guided research on Islamic art:
- Provide printed or digital examples of geometric patterns.
- Encourage students to create their own ornament in the center of the clock.
- Provide the equipment:
- Prints, compasses, rulers, cardstock or wood plates, paint, clock hands/mechanism if needed.
- Integrate an oral presentation phase:
- Have students present their creations in Arabic or in the language of instruction.
- Stimulate expression with simple guiding questions.
- Evaluate differently:
- Emphasize participation, creativity and active use of vocabulary rather than linguistic perfection.



## Recommendations for parents



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### Encourage learning through play:

- Promote the activity as a shared creative and cultural moment.
- Help the child pronounce numbers and recognize them visually.

### Support according to age:

- For younger children: help cut out or glue the numbers.
- For older children: encourage independence, especially in drawing the pattern.

### Use vocabulary in everyday life:

- Name all the hours in Arabic at home (« three o'clock », etc.).

### Use the new clock as a playful support.

### Explore Islamic art together:

- Watch videos or children's books about geometric patterns.
- Look at examples in local architecture, books, or online.

### Create a family project:

- Participate in making the clock with the child.
- Create several versions (paper/cardboard/wood) as desired.

### Share creations:

- Photograph or film the child's presentation of the clock.
- Post to a class Padlet, WhatsApp group, or keep as a souvenir.



## Online resources

### Tutorials:

<https://apprentissagecreatifdelarabe.weebly.com/>

### To work on the tablet or phone screen:

- <https://sketchbook.com/>



## ACA APPRENTISSAGE CRÉATIF DE L'ARABE

Reconnaissez-vous les figures et les mots qui se cachent dans les puzzles ?