

a-AQ!N

Art Based Learning of Language of Origin
through Didactic Innovation

Kufic Script Inspired Mosaic

Through this workshop, participants simultaneously engage their language skills (recognition, writing, pronunciation) and their artistic sense, while immersing themselves in the geometric and historical heritage of Kufic script.



ABOUT ALADIN

PROJECT NAME

Art Based Learning of Language of Origin through Didactic Innovation

PROJECT NO.

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COORDINATOR

COTA ONG (FRANCE)

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

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SINDIANE (FRANCE)



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Kufic Script Inspired Mosaic

Participant Profile: Aged 12 and above

Number of Participants: 4 - 20 Individuals

Duration: 1 hour and 30 minutes to 2 hours

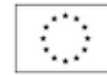
Materials: Sturdy base (30×30 cm) featuring a grid, Paper or foam squares (1×1 cm) in at least two colors, Pencil, eraser, ruler, Adhesive (stick or liquid), Printed vocabulary cards: Arabic term, transliteration, translation, reference image, Kufi letter templates (optional)

Language skills: Mastery of Arabic letters, Articulation and Composition, Pronunciation and Vocabulary

Other skills: Imagination, Artistic talents

Levels: from A1 to A2

Designed by / Origin / Languages: Kata Keresztely, COTA NGO / Multilingual



1. Context and Examples – Historical and Artistic Introduction

- Kufic script, which originated in the 7th century in Kufa (Iraq), is the oldest calligraphic style in Arab culture. Its straight lines and sharp angles, arranged on a grid, were used to copy the first Qur'ans and to decorate mosques with mosaics. Today, this geometric style inspires both traditional artisans and contemporary designers.
- Image projection of mosque mosaics and square inscriptions.

2. Choice of Word or Pattern

- Each participant chooses a word of 2 to 4 letters (e.g., "سلام" [peace], "نور" [light], "حب" [love]) or a geometric pattern derived from Kufic script.
- Sketch on graph paper to identify the shape.

3. Grid Preparation

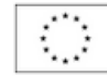
- Transfer the grid onto the chosen surface.
- Use a pencil to mark the areas to be filled for each letter or pattern.

4. Cutting the Tesserae

- Cut or select paper/foam squares.
- Sort them by color to make assembly easier.

Mosaic Inspired by Kufic Script

Activity step by step:



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5. Mosaic Assembly

- Glue the tesserae square by square according to your sketch.
- Make sure to maintain even spacing to preserve the Kufic style.
- Alternate colors to highlight letters and empty spaces.

6. Finishing and Cleaning

- Erase pencil marks.
- Adjust any misplaced tesserae.

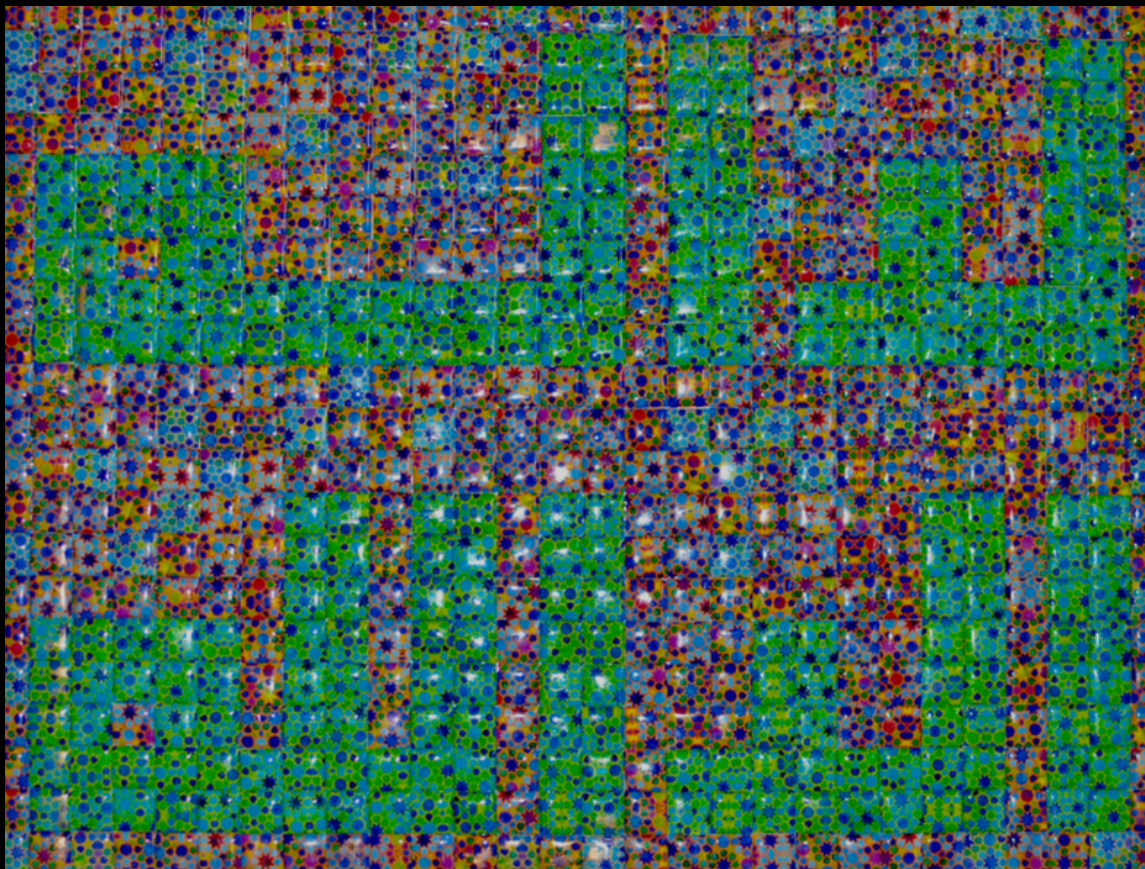
7. Sharing and Feedback

- Each participant presents their word or pattern, explains their color choices and the meaning of the word.
- Group discussion on technical challenges and creative discoveries.

8. Language Sharing

Each participant presents their mosaic:

- Reads the word in Arabic.
- Explains its meaning and gives a simple example sentence (“سلام means peace”, “نور lights up the space”).
- Pair activity: invent a short sentence or question using the word.



VARIATIONS ET ADAPTATIONS

Variations and Adaptations



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- Zoomorphic mosaic: The word takes the shape of the object it represents (e.g., “سمكة” [fish] in the shape of a fish).
- Collective mural: Each student creates one letter, and together they assemble a giant word on a wall or large panel.
- Digital workshop: Create the grid and mosaic on a tablet, then print the final result.

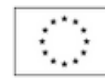
Adaptation to Other Alphabets

Adaptation to the Latin Alphabet (French, English, Spanish...)

- Square mosaic of key words: Choose a word of 4–6 letters (e.g., PEACE, LOVE, LIBERTÉ).
- Grid size: 10×10 or 8×8; each letter spans several squares based on its relative width.
- Two-tone tesserae: One color for the letters, another for the background.
- Linguistic goal: Reinforce spelling, syllable segmentation (e.g., LI – BE – RÉ – TÉ) and pronunciation out loud.

Adaptation to the Cyrillic Alphabet (Russian, Bulgarian...)

- Simple word of 3–5 graphemes (e.g., МИР “peace”, ДОМ “house”).
- Adjustable grid: Use rectangular squares for elongated letters (e.g., Ж, Ш).
- Diacritic variations: Stick raised accents (e.g., Ё, Ъ) on slightly larger tesserae.
- Linguistic goal: Memorize the shapes of specific letters and common ligatures (e.g., Ч, ШТ).



Recommendations for Teachers

- Vocabulary sheets to distribute: include the word, transliteration, image, and meaning.
- Modeling: create a sample word before starting the activity to show students what to aim for.
- Individual support: help students with reading direction and placing tesserae correctly.
- Differentiation: offer longer or shorter words depending on each student's language level.

Recommendations for Parents

- Choose a short and meaningful word together (2–4 letters) that your child likes.
- Print or draw an 8×8 to 10×10 grid on a sheet of cardstock.
- Prepare colored paper squares (1×1 cm) and sort them by color.
- Provide a vocabulary card with the Arabic word, transliteration, translation, and an associated image.
- Help your child lightly sketch the word in Kufic style on the grid using a pencil.
- Encourage them to say each letter out loud while gluing it, before completing the full word.
- Review the spelling and pronunciation together, and build a simple sentence using the word.
- Celebrate their work by displaying it on the wall or taking a photo to share with family.

Online resources

Presentation of the Historical and Cultural Context :

- <https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kufi>
- [La collection de la BnF](#)

Tutorials and More Ideas for Making Mosaics:

- <https://apprentissagecreatifdelarabe.weebly.com/les-objets.html>
- <http://www.katakeresztely.fr/objets-en-mosaique.html>