

HUMAYUN'S TOMB



An Activity Book

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*An activity book exploring the
history, architecture, and garden of
Humayun's Tomb, and the culture of
Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti*



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Introducing Heritage

Have you seen some very big trees, and wondered how old they are?



Do you remember visiting the houses in which your mother and father lived when they were children?

Have you looked at old photographs of your grandparents?



Are there any objects in your house which are very old?

All these are part of "H E R I T A G E". Heritage can refer to trees, rivers, birds which exist in their natural state; things and ideas which were produced by people who lived before you were born. Some may be hundreds of years old, others may be only 50 years old.

Before we begin reading this Activity Book, let us see whether we can find things which can be called heritage.



FUN with PATTERNS

Standing in front of Humayun's Tomb, we feel really small, but not frightened. It is because the tomb is a very beautiful and grand building.

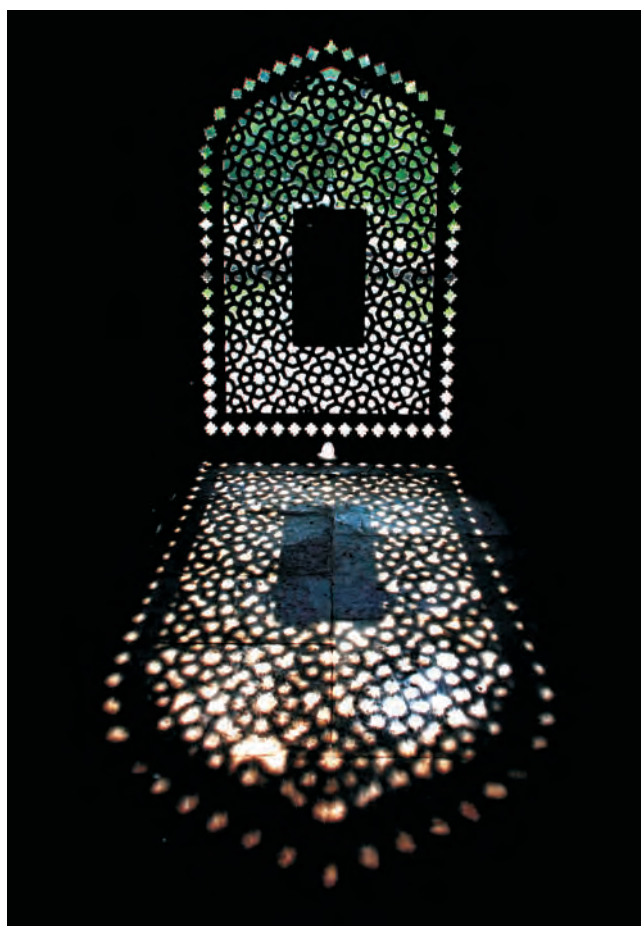
Start by looking at little details.

At home, how does sunlight - or even moonlight - come into the rooms ? Through glass windows or open doors ? Humayun's Tomb has no glass windows. But the sunlight does come in, in pretty lines, not in a great glare

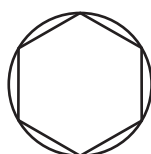
The secret is the JAALI



These jaalis were made by hand using chisels and hammer



When sunlight falls on the stone Jaali, it creates similar shadow pattern on the floor



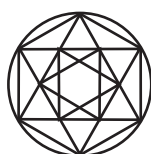
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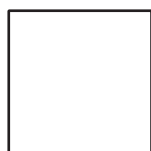
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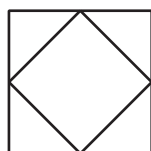
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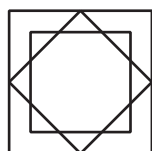
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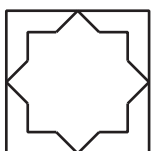
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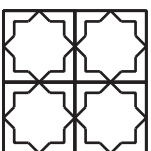
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Today, computer-aided drawings are made by architects which are then transferred to the stone by using metal stencils to aid chiseling by the craftsmen.



Think of any other shape and make a pattern out of that !



Features of Jaali



Jaalis combined Mughal decorative arts with stone craftsmanship that has existed in India, since a very long time. The Mughal builders used geometry to make patterns, and used master craftsmen to create the jaali.



Discuss these words among your friends and see how a Jaali reflects these qualities !

Privacy

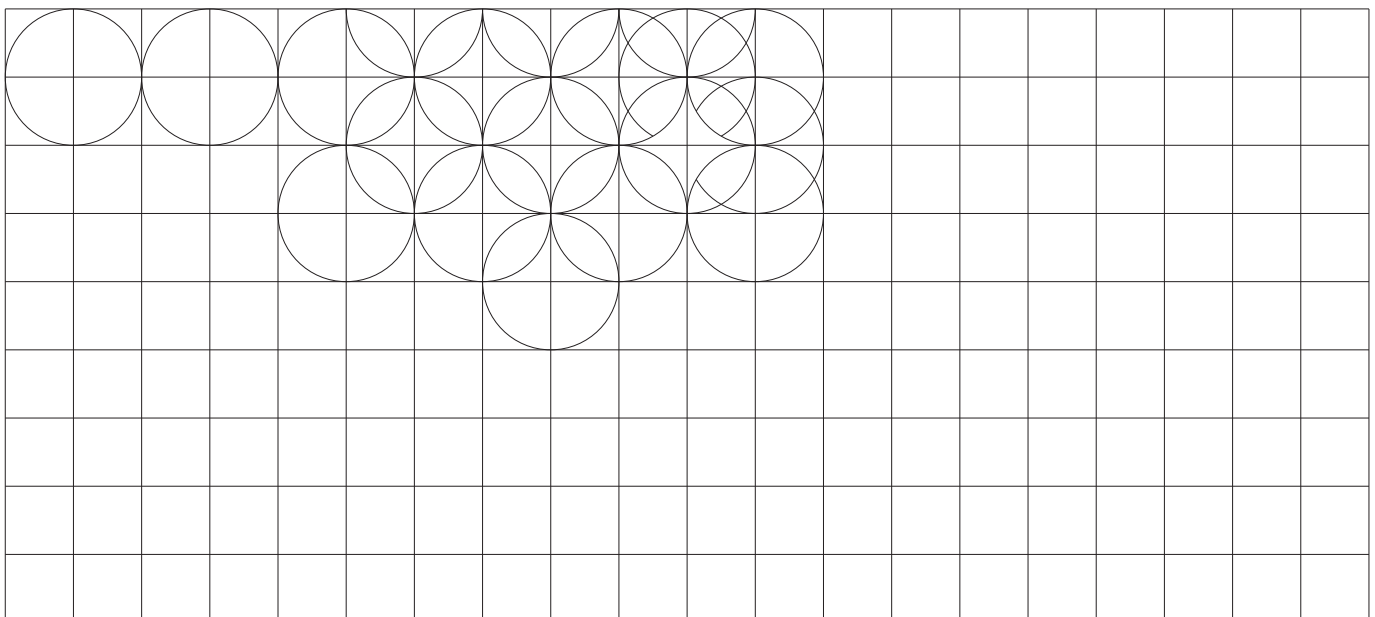
Ventilation

Sunlight Reduction

Temperature drop



Follow the lines and changes and try to make a full pattern out of this drawing



When you go to visit Humayun's Tomb, try to find this pattern



Bricks and Mortar



Built in 1570's for the Mughal Emperor Humayun by his son Akbar. Humayun's widow, Haji Begum helped supervise too.



Built in 1643 A.D by Shah Jahan for his beloved wife. It's design was inspired by Humayun's Tomb

Imagine the building materials of Taj Mahal with that of Humayun's Tomb?
How would the monuments look?



Let's explore some of the building materials of Humayun's Tomb! Try to touch all the material listed below and write how the surface feels. Is it smooth, rough, grainy, or glossy?



Sandstone:

Type: Natural- Sedimentary rock
Source: Dholpur, Rajasthan

Texture:.....

Strength: softer than marble
Usage: Exterior construction, flooring, columns, landscaping



Glazed Tiles:

Type: Man-made from sand, clay and glazing

Texture:.....

Usage: decorative uses on the exterior and the interior



Bricks

Type: Man-made from mud

Texture:.....

Strength: Softer than stone
Usage: Masonry, Landscaping



Marble:

Type: Natural-Metamorphic rock
Source: Makrana, Rajasthan

Texture:.....

Strength: softer than Delhi Quartzite
Usage: exterior construction, flooring, sculpting, inlay work



Discuss with your friends and find out which one is natural material and which one is man made? Can you think of any other traditional material?



Lime Plaster:

Type: Manmade from sand, water and lime

Texture:.....

Strength: Lasts for thousands of years
Usage: decorative uses for carving and covering the exterior and interior walls

Building materials and building techniques have greatly changed over the centuries. Traditional materials have been replaced by modern man-made materials, which are cheaper, easily available and require less time to execute. In fact, building techniques have changed with the use of machines, which have taken over the role of craftsmen.

Concrete



Indian National Science Academy
Architect: Raj Rewal
New Delhi (1990)

Glass



Life Insurance Corporation of India
Architect: Charles Correa
New Delhi (1991)

Aluminum sheets



Gateway Tower
Architect: Hafeez Contractor
Gurgaon (2010)

Start thinking about building materials. Then, if you build a house you will know what to use.



Will your choice of building material benefit you? Think about these words. Discuss with your friends.

Energy Efficient

Eco-Friendly

Have Longer Life

Recyclable



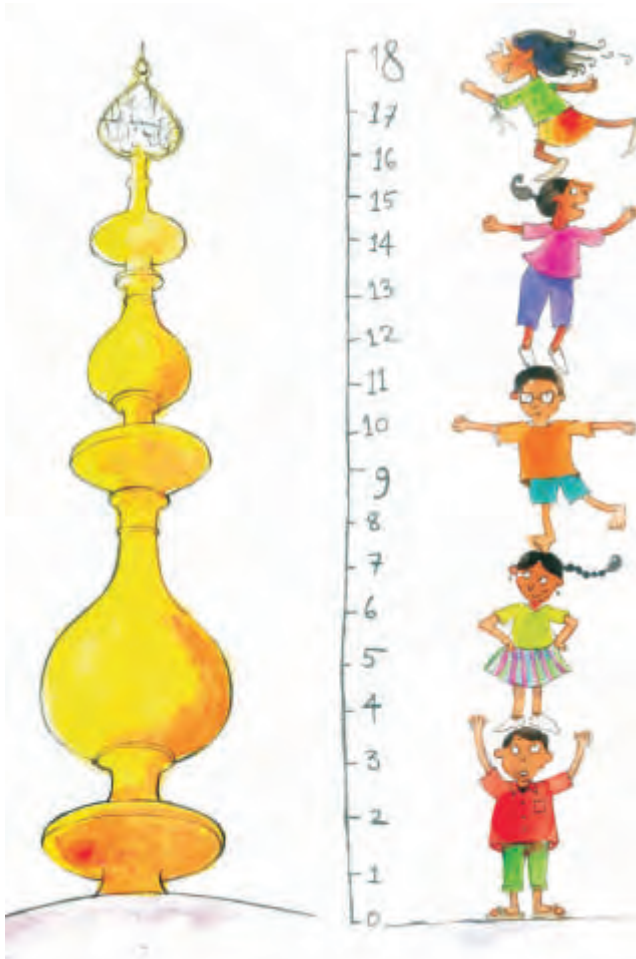
If Akbar was living today and wanted to create a memorial for his father, what kind of materials would he choose? Draw a memorial and write the name of the material in each part of your building.

😊 Can YOU think of any other man made material??

The details and the whole

The resting place of Emperor Humayun was located along the banks of river Yamuna .

The tomb was constructed between 1565-72 AD.



CONSTRUCTING THE TOMB

- Stone has been used to build the Tomb. (red sandstone, white marble and gray colored Delhi quartzite)
- Some of the walls are **15 feet thick**.
- Internal walls are painted with lime plaster.
- The chhatris are covered with **blue, green, white and yellow** tiles.
- The dome is covered with white marble brought from Rajasthan



The grand mausoleum was located in the center of a geometrically arranged garden intersected by axially arranged water channels, which represented paradise.

The mausoleum stands on a wide plinth housing 68 grave chambers accessed by alcoves on all four sides.

The 140 feet high mausoleum consists a square building with arched bays in the middle and a large dome on top.

The 19 feet high finial is fixed on top of the white marble dome.

Many of the openings have jaalis made in red sandstone and white marble.



Let's Explore !

While doing the walk:

Look for the six-sided stars. How many are there?

How many chhatris and pinnacles do you see on the roof?

Can you count the number of arches in Humayun's Tomb?

