Islamic Art

Art and Architecture or Charity and Generosity?

As part of this half-term's RE topic, we think about the importance of art and architecture to religious people around the world. This activity considers Islamic art and how it differs from Christian art.

- **Muslims think it is wrong to try to represent Allah's work.**
- **For this reason, Muslims do not believe in making pictures of humans or animals as they were created by Allah.**
- **It is a very serious crime in Islam to try to draw Allah or his messenger Muhammad.**

Calligraphy

- Islamic art often contains quotes from the Qur'an or important Muslim words in Arabic.
- They are written in calligraphy and take a long time for the artist to complete.

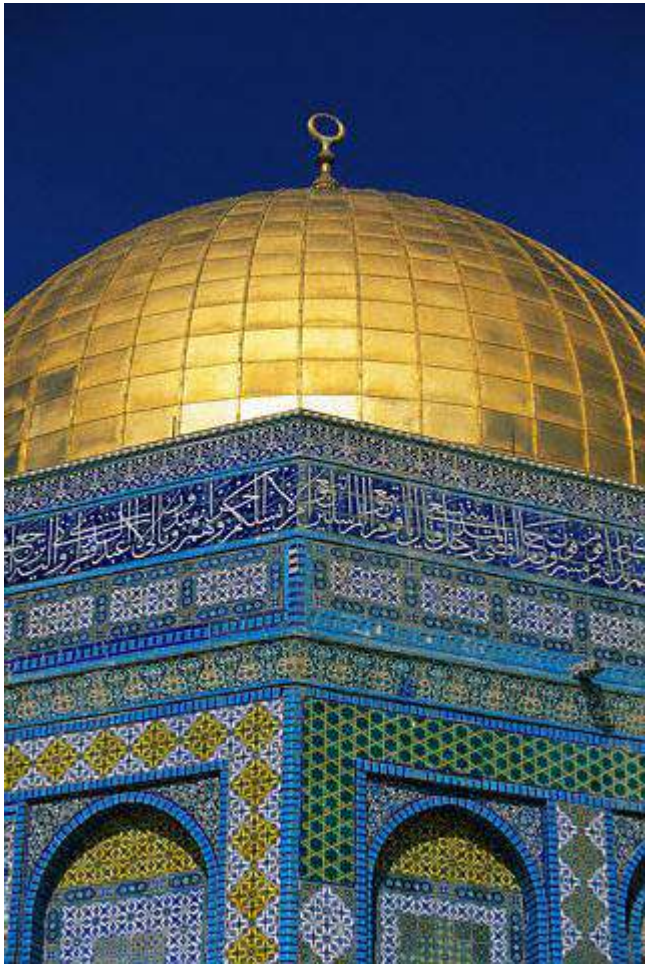
'Allah'

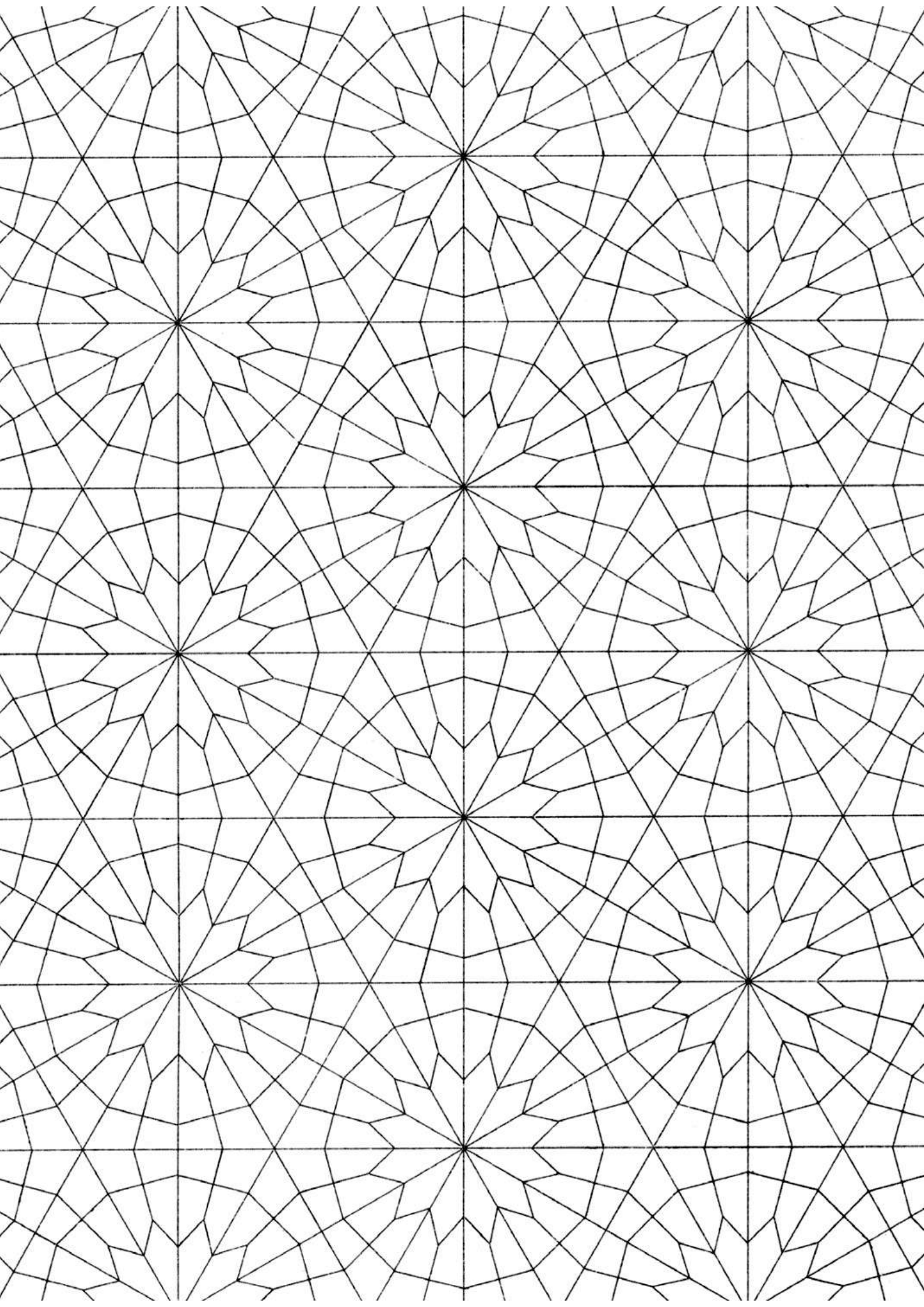
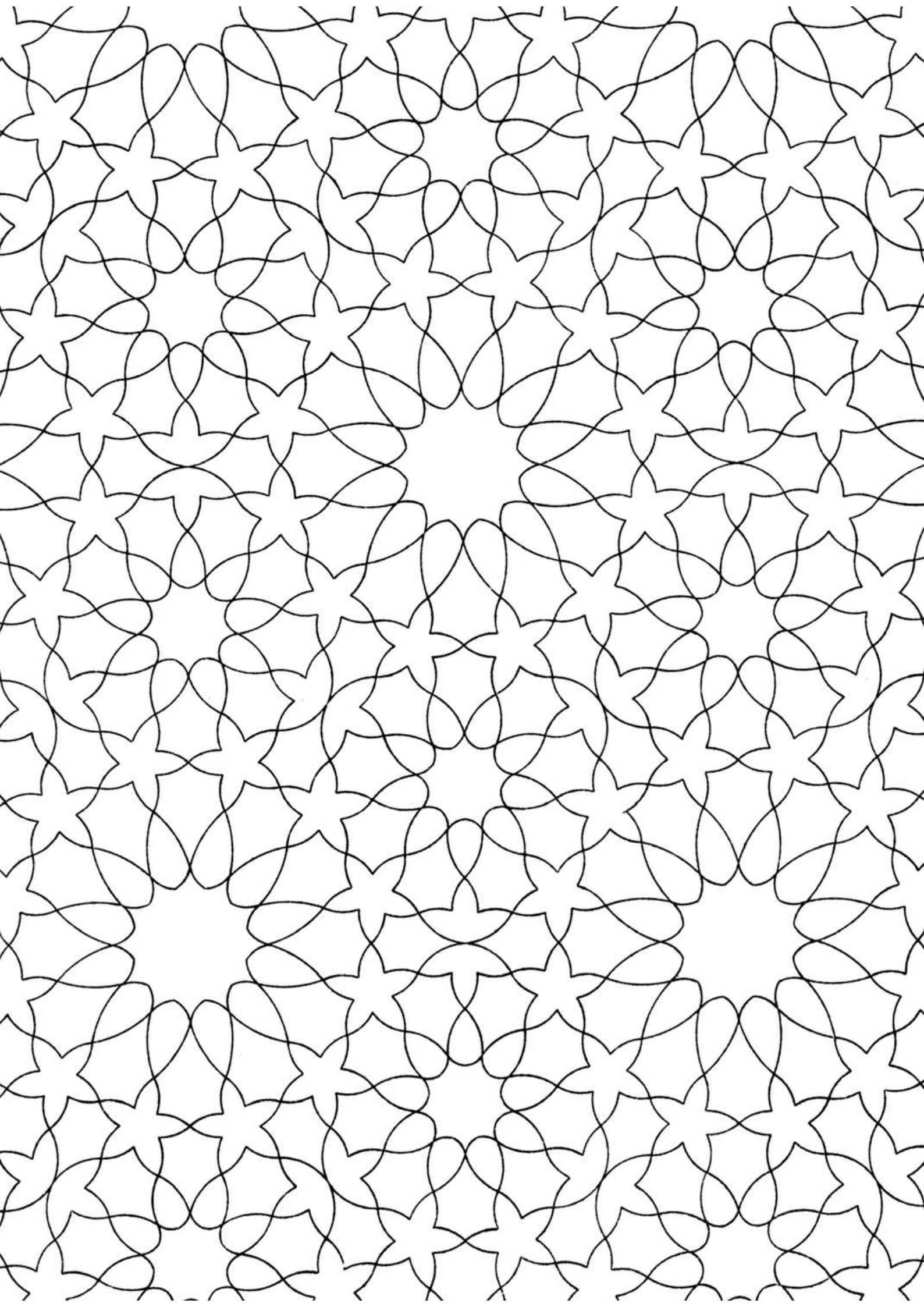
Arabic words are often written in the shape of something to do with their meaning.

Geometric Shapes

- Another form of Islamic art is Geometric Art.
- This is when basic shapes are put together and repeated to make patterns (tessellation).

Islamic Buildings



- Islamic buildings often contain a mixture of both *calligraphy* art and **geometric** art.
- See if you can find examples online.

The following pages have some geometric designs that you can shade in. Think about the colours that would suit each other in order to create a pattern. If you can’t print the sheets you could design your own tessellating pattern by using a ruler or drawing around shapes.