Day 1
Where in the world?
BASED ON THE PHOTOS, GUESS THE COUNTRY!
Oman is a country located in the Middle East, on the Arabian Peninsula. The country is slightly smaller than Kansas. Oman shares a border with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Yemen and the Indian Ocean. The climate of Oman is dry and hot in the desert, which is in the middle of the country; along the Indian Ocean coast, the climate is hot and humid. In the summer months, storms cause large dust storms called haboob (Arabic for “blasting”).

The capital of Oman is Muscat, which has a population of 1.7 million people. The population of Oman is 4.8 million people (for comparison, New Mexico’s population is 2 million. The population of the United States is nearly 330 million). The official language of Oman is Arabic. Approximately 85% of the population is Muslim, with Christians representing 6.5% and Hindus 5.5%.

If you are interested to learn more about Oman (or any other country), you can visit the CIA’s World Fact Book.
Wanna learn Arabic?

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The Arabic language is one of the 6 official languages of the United Nations. It is spoken throughout the Middle East and North Africa, and approximately 450 million people speak it throughout the world. It has many different versions, and each country often speaks it in a unique way. It originated in the Arabian Peninsula, where the language gets its name.
Arabic Speaking Countries

ALGERIA
BAHRAIN
CHAD
DJIBOUTI
EGYPT
ERITREA
IRAQ
ISRAEL
JORDAN
KWAI

LEBANON
LIBYA
MAURITANIA
MOROCCO
OMAN
PALESTINE
QATAR
SAUDIARABIA
SOMALIA
SUDAN
SYRIA
TUNISIA
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
YEMEN
Arabic Alphabet

Arabic has 28 letters and it is written and read from right to left, which is the opposite direction from English. Each letter changes shape depending on where it is in a word, whether it is in the beginning, middle, or end of a word. Because of its different alphabet and grammar, it is considered one of the hardest languages for English speakers to learn.
Try and find some of the Arabic speaking countries below. Remember, Arabic reads opposite than English, so look for the country names in these directions:

| ت ف ض ت | ل ج ز و ف ل | ن س ن ص ل ش ي م س | س ش خ ه إ ل أ د ن ش ك ع | أ ل ي م ن غ ف ك ق ث ي ن و | ه ذ م غ ث ت إ ل و ي ت د | أ ل ع ر أ ق ا ش ل ز ي ص ي | ن ش ظ ب ل ط م ظ ع م أ ن ت | س ر ط س و ر ي ا ف ذ ج ظ ث |

To the right is what the country name looks like when written out and in the middle is the country name with the individual letters. In the word search above, look for the patters as they are shown in the middle.

| Egypt | مصر |
| Algeria | الجزائر |
| Morocco | مغرب |
| Iraq | العراق |
| Syria | سوريا |
| Yemen | اليمن |
| Tunisia | تونس |
| Jordan | الأردن |
| Lebanon | لبنان |
IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD, INTERIOR DECORATIONS TEND NOT TO FEATURE PEOPLE OR ANIMALS. RATHER, DECORATIONS ARE MADE UP OF A SERIES OF GEOMETRIC SHAPES ON TILES THAT FORM LARGE, BEAUTIFUL PATTERNS. THESE GEOMETRIC PATTERNS CAN BE SEEN ON THE WALLS AND ROOFS OF MOSQUES, MADRASAS, AND PALACES ALL AROUND THE WORLD.

PATTERNS CONSIST OF BASIC SHAPES, SUCH AS SQUARES AND CIRCLES, THAT ARE THEN REPEATED TO CREATE DESIGNS THAT COVER WHOLE BUILDINGS. NO MATTER HOW COMPLEX A DESIGN MAY APPEAR TO BE, MOST CAN BE CONSTRUCTED USING NOTHING MORE THAN A GRID, A RULER, AND A LITTLE BIT OF GEOMETRY. BECAUSE THE PATTERNS CAN APPEAR UNENDING, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT ISLAMIC GEOMETRIC ART IS CREATED TO EXPRESS THE INFINITE NATURE OF THE WORLD AROUND US.
Design your tile!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. USE THE ART GRID TO MAKE YOUR TILE. NOTE, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO USE THE SAME COLORS TO DRAW EACH LINE. THEY ARE DIFFERENT COLORS TO HELP YOU!

2. DRAW TWO LINES: ONE LINE DIVIDING THE GRID IN HALF VERTICALLY AND THE SECOND LINE DIVIDING THE GRID IN HALF HORIZONTALLY. BOTH LINES SHOULD INTERSECT IN THE CENTER OF THE GRID. IT SHOULD LOOK LIKE THE GRID BELOW.

3. NEXT, DIVIDE THE FOUR SMALLER SQUARES VERTICALLY AND HORIZONTALLY. IT SHOULD LOOK LIKE THE GRID BELOW.
4. NEXT, DRAW TWO DIAGONAL LINES THROUGH THE GRID. IT SHOULD LOOK LIKE THE EXAMPLE BELOW

5. FINALLY, DRAW A DIAGONAL BOX, ITS CORNERS MEETING AT EACH BLUE LINE. SEE EXAMPLE BELOW. THE DIAGONAL BOX IS ILLUSTRATED IN PURPLE.
Design your tile!

6. Once you have finished drawing the grid, color each section a different color, as seen below. Use your creativity!

FINISHED EXAMPLES: