

# ISLAMIC PATTERNS

## DAGGER - 16TH CENTURY

The blade of this dagger is made from steel inlaid with gold. The work is of exceptionally high quality - the gold has been laid into grooves cut into the base metal, instead of being simply laid on top.

The decoration incorporates two lines of poetry, one in Turkish and one in Persian. A fine Islimi pattern decorates the rest of the dagger. The dagger contains turquoise and garnets in the decoration.



IN DETAIL



**DATE** 16th century  
**MATERIALS** Steel, gold, turquoise, garnets  
**SIZE** 22.2 cm, blade length

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**MAKER** Unknown  
**PLACE** Iran and Ottoman Empire



## ACTIVITY Create a complex floral motif



If we focus in on the blade, we can see detailed spirals and floral motifs. The floral motifs can be drawn freehand, but to be precise, you can use a compass, pencil, and ruler.

- Draw a circle using a compass.
- Divide up the circle into 3 equal parts.
- In one third, draw in a petal and leaf.
- Draw in the same petal and leaf in the other two parts. If you want exact repetition, trace the circle with one third designed on tracing paper. Rotate the tracing paper, and trace in each section.
- Repeat this for circles divided into 4, 5, 6 and more.
- You can add layers to the floral motifs.

Have your floral motifs been inspired by any flowers in nature, or are they all from your imagination? Or an amalgamation of the two?

- Create a spiral vine, adding your own floral and leaf motifs as developed above. Add texture and colour.

