The gold patterns created on this helmet are exquisite, and a great example of how patterns found in manuscript illumination can also be found on different objects, in different materials.
IN DETAIL

DATE  Mid-17th century
MATERIALS  Iron or steel, textiles and velvet
PLACE  Iran
MAKER  Unknown
This helmet was made in the mid-17th century in an area which is now modern-day Iran.

- Who was ruling the region at the time?
- What was Iran known as previously?
- Which area did this encompass?
- Which countries does Iran border today?
ACTIVITY  Rumi shapes

These are called ‘Rumi’ shapes, and are formed from leaf-like shapes around a small circle.

- Where can you find these shapes on the helmet?
- Practice drawing these shapes and the variations so you can incorporate them later.
- Look at all the shapes on the helmet. Can you work out any underlying geometric grids? Think about circles, and their centre points.
**ACTIVITY**  Tepelik shapes

These are called ‘tepelik’ shapes. Tepelik comes from ‘pointed’ or ‘hilltop’ in Turkish. They are symmetrical in their full form, or attached to lines and spirals in halves.

- Can you see any variations on the helmet?
- Practice drawing these shapes and the variations so you can incorporate them later.
- Can you add any Rumi shapes to the insides of your Tepelik shapes like on the helmet?

**RESEARCH & DISCUSS**

- Where did the Rumi and tepelik shapes derive from? What are they inspired by?
- Can you find other examples of these shapes in art and architecture?
**ACTIVITY**  Making a radial design: step 1

Look at the birds-eye view of the helmet. Follow the steps to recreate your own circular design. You will need: paper, pencil, tracing paper, compass, ruler.

- Draw a circle with compass.
- Cut circle out.
- Fold to divide it into 2, then 4, and again into 8.
- Unfold it back into a circle.
ACTIVITY Making a radial design: step 2

- Draw a pencil line along the folds.
- On one line, on one side, draw out a simple pattern. Include any tepelik and Rumi shapes, and any other shapes you feel inspired to add.
ACTIVITY  Making a radial design: step 3

- Draw another circle with a slightly bigger radius on a piece of tracing paper, and fold to divide into 8. You can draw lines with a ruler along the folds if this helps.
- Lay the tracing paper over your paper circle. Trace your pattern, then fold your tracing paper along that line and repeat.
ACTIVITY  Making a radial design: step 4

- When you unfold your tracing paper, you should see your pattern mirrored.
- Now fold the tracing paper again along the perpendicular line and repeat the tracing of your pattern.
- Rotate your tracing paper and repeat the process 3 more times until all 8 radial lines have the pattern on them.