

Turkish Carpet Craft Project

What You Need:

- ❖ Construction Paper
- ❖ Samples of Traditional Turkish Designs
- ❖ Scissors
- ❖ Hole Punch
- ❖ Yarn
- ❖ Colored pens, crayons, or paints
- ❖ Any other embellishments



What To Do:

Step One: Have students cut out their carpet from the colored construction paper. (They may want to consider that Turkish carpets are traditionally made from natural dyes. Ask students which colors they think would be traditional colors. The color yellow usually comes from onion skin or saffron; browns are created from pine cones or dry tobacco leaves; blue emerges from indigo; reds arise from cochineal or madder root.) Since Turkish carpets are and were made in various shapes and sizes to accommodate different uses, students may decide upon the carpet's size and shape themselves.

Step Two: Handout or display traditional Turkish carpet motifs and designs, along with the symbols' meanings, to students. (See CSAMES Turkish Carpet Lesson Plan to access details about how to obtain these traditional symbols.) Have students use the symbols to design their own carpet using colored pens, crayons, or paints, as well as any other embellishments that would be useful. (Again you may wish to emphasize traditional color schemes as well, such as bold reds and blues and soft beiges, browns, blues, yellows, and greens.)

Step Three: Have students put holes at the two edges of their rugs with a hole punch. Then using yarn, they can attach the yarn to the ends as a fringe for their carpet.