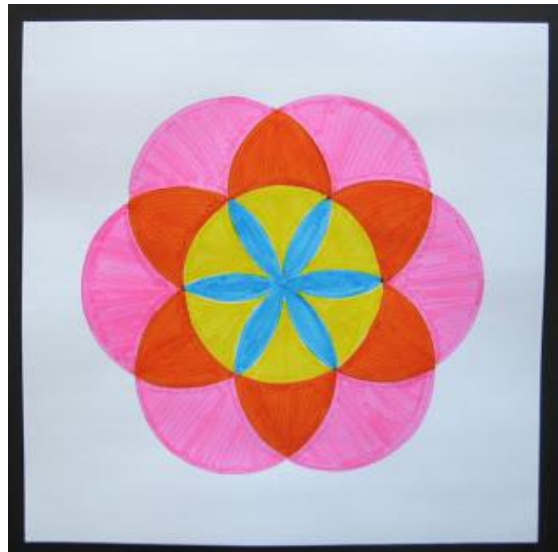




## ART BRIDGES: Lesson Plans for Enrichment, Growth and Healing

### Compass Mandalas

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Cheryl Trowbridge  
[www.teachkidsart.net](http://www.teachkidsart.net)



#### Objectives:

The participants will:

1. Learn about mandalas

2. Use geometric principles of diameter and circumference to create art
3. Use the art elements of color, balance and symmetry in creating art

### **Audiences:**

This lesson can be suitable for anyone who can safely handle and manipulate a compass.

### **Learning Opportunity:**

The word “mandala” comes from the Sanskrit word meaning “circle” and has its roots in Hindu and Buddhist traditions. We know mandalas as circular designs with radial symmetry and repeating patterns. Mandalas can be found today in a variety of cultures as well as in nature. (Ask students where they have seen circles, or patterns with circles, in nature or in man-made objects.) This mandala project uses important math skills to create a beautiful, symmetrical design. *Note:*

*Visit the following site to see images of mandalas:*

[https://images.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search;\\_ylt=AOLEVjhtcfhVtbEA3pEnnllQ;\\_ylu=X3oDMTEzZiZpNzAxBGNvbG8DYmYxBHBvcwMxBHZ0aWQDRkZVSUMwXzEEc2VjA3Ni?p=Examples+of+Mandalas&fr=yhs-mozilla-002&hspart=mozilla&hsimp=yhs-002](https://images.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search;_ylt=AOLEVjhtcfhVtbEA3pEnnllQ;_ylu=X3oDMTEzZiZpNzAxBGNvbG8DYmYxBHBvcwMxBHZ0aWQDRkZVSUMwXzEEc2VjA3Ni?p=Examples+of+Mandalas&fr=yhs-mozilla-002&hspart=mozilla&hsimp=yhs-002)

### **Vocabulary:**

Diameter — a straight line passing from side to side across the center of a circle

Circumference — the distance around a circle

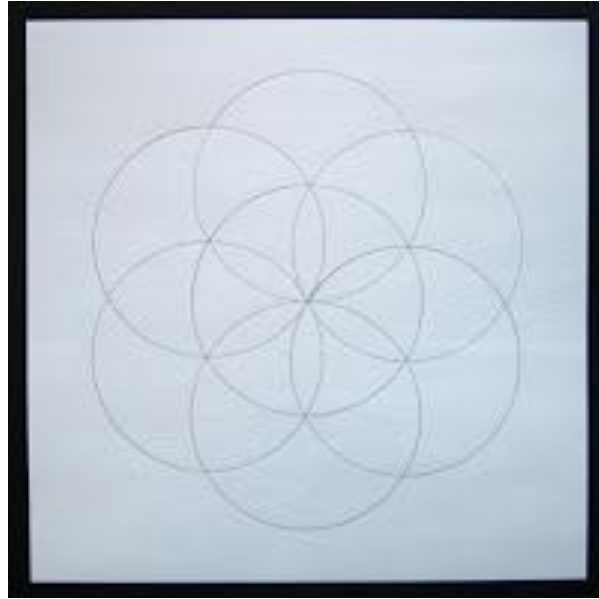
### **Supplies/Materials:**

- Compass and pencil
- Markers or colored pencils
- Ruler
- 9x9” construction or drawing paper
- eraser

### **Class Instructions:**

1. Use a ruler to find the center of your paper. Lay the ruler corner to corner, across your paper, and make a light mark in the middle. Repeat with the other two corners so that you have a very light “x” in the center of your paper.
2. Set your compass to about 5cm.
3. Place the point on the center of your paper and draw a circle.
4. Carefully lift your compass and erase the “x”.

5. Without moving the arms of your compass, place the point anywhere on the circumference and draw another circle.
6. Now place the point on one of the places where your circles intersect and draw another circle.
7. Keep drawing circles until you have completed your pattern.



8. Color your design by outlining each separate shape with a marker or colored pencil and fill in, coloring all one direction.

Experiment with other designs you can make by placing your compass point where different lines intersect. Try using specific color schemes (such as warm or cool colors, analogous colors, complimentary colors, etc.) or patterns to fill in each area of your design. So many ways you can go with this project!

To see this lesson in its entirety, visit <http://www.teachkidsart.net/compass-mandalas/>.

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*Special thanks to **Cheryl Trowbridge** for sharing a wealth of information and resources and ideas on her excellent website [www.teachkidsart.net](http://www.teachkidsart.net) ! Cheryl has her art education credentials and has been teaching art to kids for over 20 years. She is inspired by watching children of all ages discover their ability to be creative. Her passion is to make successful art lessons accessible to help share the joy of art*

*with all the kids in our lives. Visit Sheryl's on-line store <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Teach-Kids-Art> to purchase a variety of resources for helping kids create art.*

**If you have used this activity, we'd love to hear from you! Please send questions or comments through our website [www.hildegardcenter.org](http://www.hildegardcenter.org) .**

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