
CREATIONS

For students in 3rd & 4th years

Zentangle Animal Mandala Design

Overview: Choose an animal or two to create a circular design with. Flattening out and stylizing the reference may make this easier but the you can choose how you want to use the reference.

Step 1. Brainstorm sketching (15 minutes)

Draw two kinds of sketches to get your ideas figured out. First, draw simple rough ideas for the entire mandala design. These should be small (thumbnails are about 2 inches maximum) so you can draw several ideas quickly. Second, make a sketch of you animal(s) in the position for your mandala design so you can work out how it fits. Use the M.C. Escher reference for ideas but you can do it your own way.

Step 2. Guideline Drawing (20 min) Using a circle template or compass, draw a large circle on your sketch pad using your pencil, but draw extremely light lines, barely touching the pencil to the paper. This will allow the lines to disappear when you erase them after inking. You can make smaller interior circle guidelines using a roll of tape or other circular objects.

Then create your artwork, making the lines as light as you can. Remember that you'll be inking the real artwork, so the pencil lines are only temporary. You don't have to make any patterns at all, just do the Big Shapes and important outlines so you can begin inking.

Step 3. Inking (The rest of the class time) Be careful to keep your ink secure, and tap the tip so you don't drip! Work from the top and move downward, so you don't smear wet ink.

Fill your drawing with awesome lines, textures, and patterns. You an also try making some lines thicker than others. Enjoy creating!

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