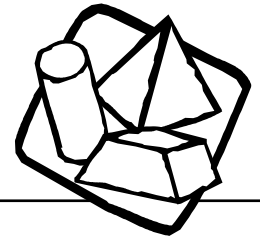


Needlework Designs



Create a symmetrical design for your own special blouse called a huipil.

What you need

Colored pencils or crayons
Copies of the blank huipiles

What to do

1. Explain what a huipil is: Women in Yalálag, Mexico wear long white huipiles (blouses) with flowers embroidered on them. Mothers teach their children to sew the designs into fabric with colorful thread. The flower designs are sewn on the front, back and sides of the huipil. They are also symmetrical. If you fold a huipil in half you will see that the flowers will be in the same place on each side.
2. Look at the picture of the huipil. Talk about what patterns you see. Fold them to see how they are symmetrical.
3. Think of a design that is symmetrical to decorate a huipil. (ex. butterfly, leaf, house)
4. Draw the design onto the blank huipil.
5. Fold it in half to check if it is symmetrical.

What to ask

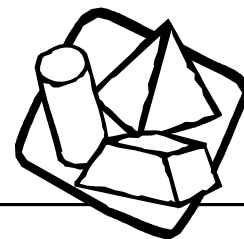
- How do you know your design is symmetrical?
- Why did you choose that design?
- How could you change your design?
- What else could you include in your design that is symmetrical?



Did you know?

All cultures have specific patterns that are used in fabrics for clothing or decoration, art, and buildings. Some are symmetrical like the floral design in the huipil. Others like, woven textiles will have a repeating pattern of stripes or geometric shapes.





What's next?

- Look at symmetry in insects. Search for real insects and draw pictures of them and then prove how they are symmetrical.
- Go on a symmetry hunt. Look around. Sketch something you see that is symmetrical and then test it.
- Explore the patterns in quilts and then draw one on squares of paper.

To learn more

Cloak for the Dreamer

by Marilyn Burns

In this story three brothers design cloaks with beautiful patterns

Let's Fly a Kite

by Stuart J. Murphy

When Bob and Hannah split something, the two pieces had better be symmetrical—exactly the same. To fly their kite, they'll have to learn something new—cooperation!

Patchwork Quilt

by Valerie Flourney

Using scraps cut from the family's old clothing, Tanya helps her grandmother and mother make a beautiful quilt that tells the story of her family's life.

How it helps with school

Texas Prekindergarten Curriculum Guidelines

Patterns, Geometry

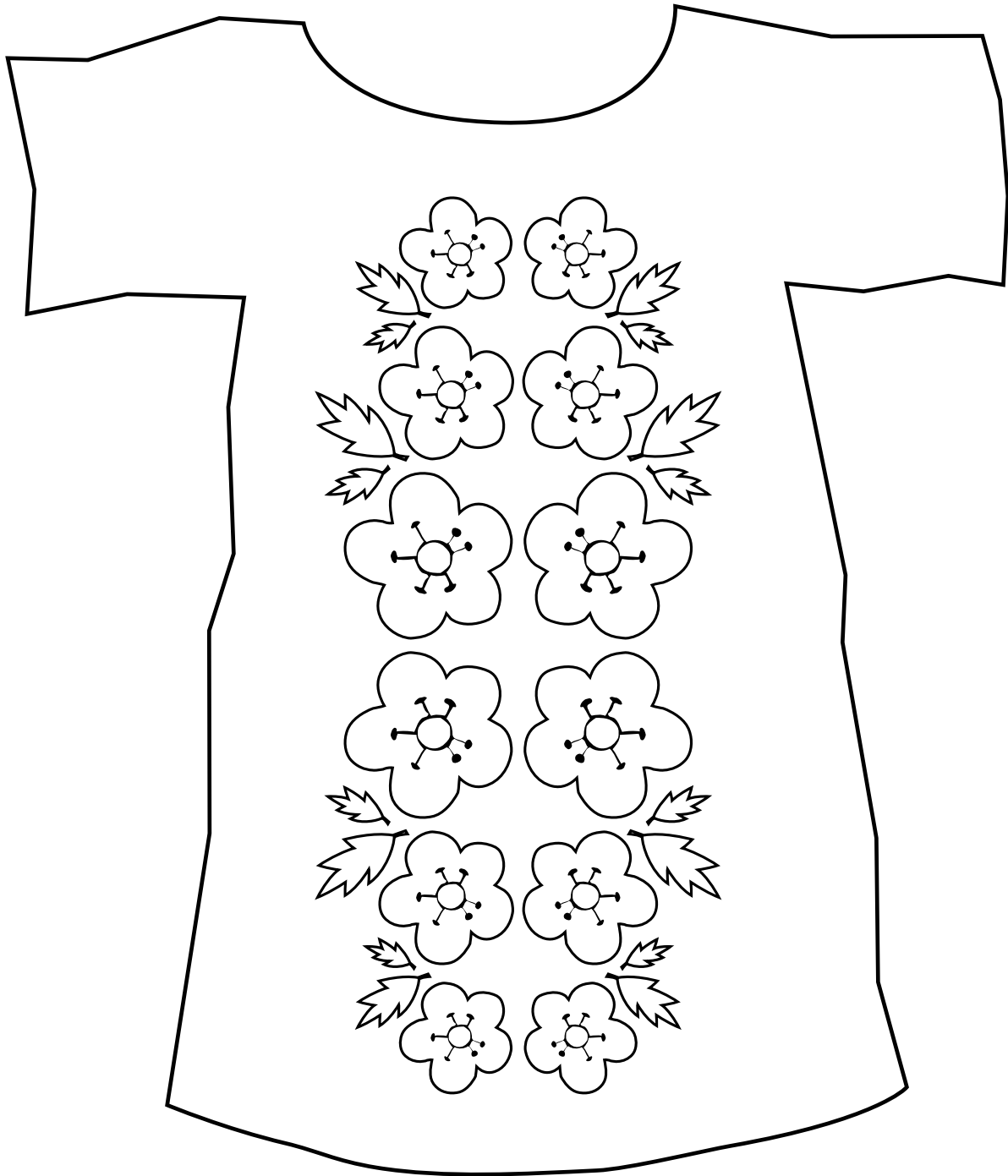
Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) Standards

Patterns, Relationships, and Algebraic Thinking: K.5; 1.4A; 2.6C
Underlying Processes and Mathematical Tools: K.14; 1.12; 2.14

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Standards

Geometry, Reasoning and Proof, Connections, Representation

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