

# SAND ART RANGOLI - MANDALAS

You can create beautiful Mandala or Rangoli style artworks using coloured sand and fine glitter! This set of pre-printed cards enables you to make 4 beautiful designs which can be displayed as Mandala works of art and also be used as Rangolis during Diwali. Sand Art is a simple but effective craft activity for children to exercise their craft skills and also improve their patience.

## ABOUT MANDALAS AND RANGOLIS

Mandala is a sanskrit word, loosely translated, for "circle." A Mandala represents wholeness, some use it for meditation and many use it to unlock their creativity. Interestingly Rangoli is also a sanskrit word which means a creative expression of art through the use of colour.

Rangoli is a Hindu folk art, generally created on a floor on special festive occasions. The tradition of Rangoli originated in Maharashtra and slowly spread to the rest of India. Today, Rangolis are used to decorate the entrances of homes as a floor-painting which provides a warm and colourful welcome to visitors. In particular, the Diwali festival is widely celebrated with Rangolis, since at this time people visit each other's homes to exchange greetings.

In a typical Rangoli, powdered colours are sprinkled on cleaned floors to form decorations. The coloured powder is usually applied 'freehand' by letting it run from the gap formed by pinching the thumb and the forefinger. Most Rangoli are geometrical patterns but may also include other popular objects in the patterns.

## SAND ART MANDALA RANGOLI

This art form uses coloured sand of a uniform mesh and craft glue for creating the Rangoli designs. The designs are not done on the floor but on stiff card paper. This form of art has permanence and can be preserved, displayed or gifted.

In this kit 4 circular pictures of 20 cms. diameter on card paper are included. They depict simple geometric designs specially meant for children. Eight different colours of uniformly meshed sand are provided in sealed sachets. The craft glue provided in the pack serves to bind the sand on the picture and can be applied with the brush provided in the kit. Also included is silver glitter which can be applied in between all the coloured sand borders.

## INSTRUCTIONS

Choose any one picture template,

Identify the areas in the template for each colour. You can check out the box cover for leads.

Starting with one colour apply the adhesive glue carefully with the brush in the predefined areas of the template for this colour. Ensure that the adhesive does not spill outside the border.

Sprinkle the selected coloured sand on these exposed gum areas uniformly. Allow to dry and then tap off extra sand from the picture into an empty container. You can apply more craft glue followed by sand if

required.

Repeat the operation for other colours in their respective areas one by one to complete the picture.

Use the glitter powder for outlining the borders both internally and also for the outer design frame. This is done by carefully applying the glue using the brush in thin lines or curves.

Having gained some level of expertise you can complete the sand pictures with the other card templates.

### SKILLS GAINED DURING THIS ACTIVITY

- These simple craft activities are great in developing the child's concentration and patience.
- They channelize the energy levels especially for hyperactive children. The child gets involved completely in this very absorbing craft activity.
- All children love being creative if they are given the chance the act of being creative brings with it so many benefits.
- This great do it yourself activity leaves out all the 'messy' creative activities for the child of this early age group to do thereby developing a love of the creative process involved in making the wonderful pictures.
- The finished items can be displayed during the festival or even as wall hangings. For Diwali festival you can display all the craft work over 4 days.

Finally, it provides a positive outlet for children to express itself with not just airy-fairy feel-good things, they help the child develop intellectually, physically and socially..

### ADDITIONAL TIPS AND ENHANCEMENTS

You can use the glitter even in the main picture besides the border to get a sparkling and highlighting effect.

By mixing two different coloured sands within a target area one can get a shaded effect.

You can preserve the Mandala/Rangoli designs by framing the pictures.

Store the coloured sand in the containers for future use.

Make your own craft design with the leftover sand, glitter and glue.

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