

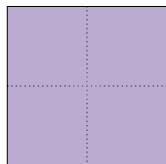
INITIAL NOTAN

Notan is a Japanese art technique involving the use of light and dark elements. By combining light and dark elements, the art of Notan seeks to embody balance. The use of negative and positive space can create a recognizable visual scene or an abstract design. In this activity students will place geometric or organic shapes next to each other through the use of line symmetry.

MATERIALS

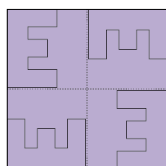
- origami paper
- scissors
- glue
- paper

INSTRUCTIONS



Step 1

Fold the origami paper into fourths by folding the paper in half. Then in half again the other way.



Step 2

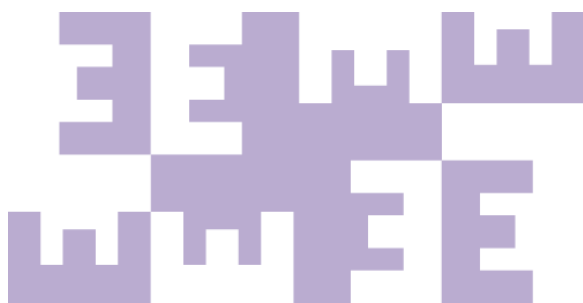
Draw your initial in each fourth of the paper, using the corner of the paper for two of the sides of the letter.

Step 3

Cut out your initials and turn out the initials on a line of symmetry. Note that this can be done several different ways.

Step 4

Glue down the pieces.



Video: Making a Notan with Your Initial



MAKE CONNECTIONS

Questions to Ask:

- How many lines of symmetry are possible?
- What was challenging about this art technique?
- Where have you seen the use of negative and positive space in visual art work?



BE FLEXIBLE

Extra Support:

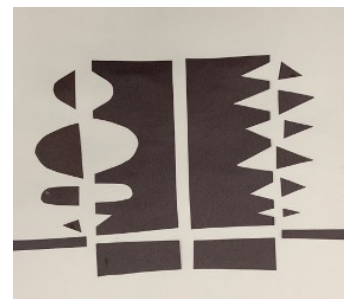
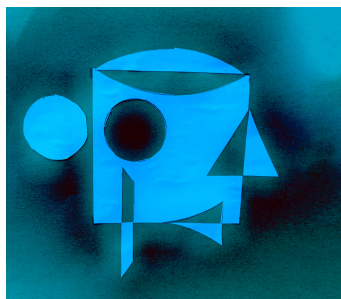
- Students can cut out a simple shape instead of their initial.

NOTAN DESIGNS

MATERIALS PER STUDENT

- 4 sheets of black paper
- cardstock paper
- pencil
- scissors*
- glue*

*shared among students



INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1

Cut a 6"x6" square out of the black paper.



Step 2

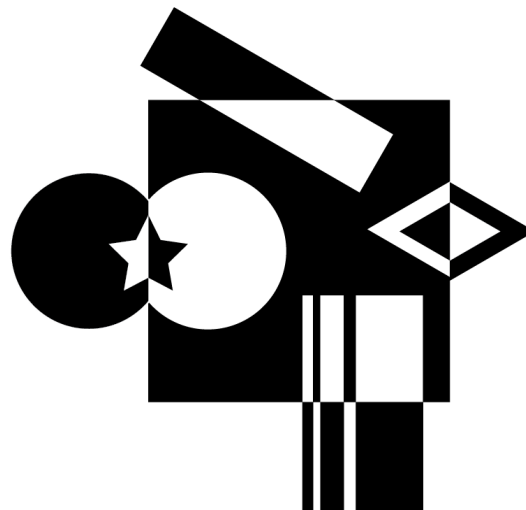
Draw a pattern or scene on the black square with a pencil. Keep most images either on the edge or close to the edge of the paper. Simple patterns or shapes are good for the first iteration.

Step 3

Cut out each shape.

Step 4

Once all shapes are cut out, place the pieces using the sides of the original square as lines of symmetry. Once the placement of your pieces is the way you want it, glue them to the cardstock paper.



BE FLEXIBLE

Extra Support:

- When making their notan, remind students that the objects they cut should be placed on white paper as a reflective image. No pieces should be thrown away.