

Playful Patterns

Ages 3–12

Navajo textiles date from the 1600s and were originally used as blankets, coats, or other everyday items. Navajo blankets were woven in patterns featuring shapes and colors found in nature. Dr. Barnes had an interest in shape and color and bought several Navajo blankets to add to his art collection. You can create your own patterned designs using inspiration from Navajo weavings.

Materials:

White paper, pencil, ruler, pre-cut shapes for tracing, and crayons/markers/colored pencils

Instructions:

Step 1: Patterns are created by repeating lines and shapes, such as circles, diamonds, squares, or triangles. Use a pencil and ruler to draw three or four horizontal lines across a sheet of paper, creating evenly spaced rows.

Step 2: Draw or trace a shape in the first row and then repeat that shape across the whole row. Choose a different shape to repeat in the next row. Continue until all the rows are filled.

Step 3: Use crayons or markers to highlight your lines, and color to your design to make it pop!



Unidentified
Maker, Navajo.
*Third Stage
Chiefs Blanket*,
1870–1880

