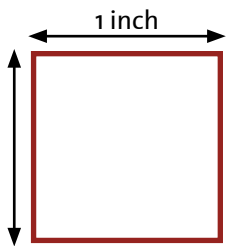




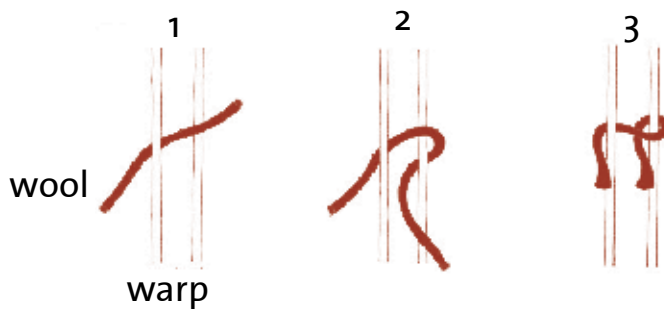
Fact File: The Ardabil Carpet

- The carpet is the **oldest** dated example in the world. It was made in 1539-40.
- It is also one of the **biggest**. It is over 10 metres long and 5 metres wide, which makes it twice as big as a gymnastics trampoline!
- The carpet was made **by hand** by tying knots of very fine coloured wool onto silk.
- There are only ten different colours of wool in the carpet.



Step 1. Explore how the carpet was made

The knots that make up this carpet are very difficult to see.



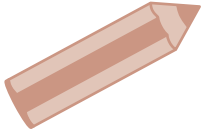
Guess how many knots went to make up a piece of carpet the size of this square?

3 or 4 34 304 3,400

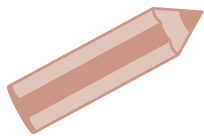


Step 2. Find out more about the patterns

Look at the pattern on the carpet. Can you see the central yellow sun? It is also called a **medallion** and has 16 small ovals around it. Now look in the corners. In each corner, one quarter of the medallion pattern is repeated.



There are four different patterns around the edge of the Ardabil carpet. See if you can copy a pattern, or a small part of one, in this rectangle.



Step 3. Get ideas for your own carpet design

Look at the Ardabil carpet and other carpets in the gallery to find ideas for your own carpet design. What shape will you put in the centre of your design? Draw it below.

When you are back at school your teacher can photocopy your drawing and then divide it into four quarters. You can put one quarter in each corner, just like the design on the Ardabil carpet.





Step 4. Find the lamps

The carpet is also decorated with two **hanging lamps**.
Can you see them?



There are more **lamps** on display in the gallery. Some have chains and would have hung from the ceiling in a mosque. You can read more about mosque lamps below.

See if you can find other lamps in the gallery and choose one or two to copy for your carpet design.



Fact File: Mosque Lamps

- Mosque lamps are often made of glass, like the one you can see in the picture on the left. Can you find this lamp in the gallery?
- Glass lamps like this one would have been filled with oil and then lit.
- The lamps are often decorated with beautiful writing, called **calligraphy**. The writing is in Arabic and is usually verses from the Holy Book of Islam, the Qur'an. Sometimes it tells you the name of the person who paid for the lamp to be made.
- The ceramic lamp you can see in the picture at the bottom was made for a mosque in Istanbul in 1557. Can you find it in the gallery? It is quite large.
- This ceramic lamp was just used for decoration, because light does not show through clay.
- Can you see the red/orange colour on the lamp? When this lamp was made, people were only just finding out how to make red paint for ceramics. It was quite difficult, and that is why the red looks quite orange and is lighter in some places than others.

