



### Fact File: The Minbar

- The minbar was made for a mosque in Cairo in Egypt more than **500 hundred** years ago.
- Every Friday at the midday prayer, a learned man would have **climbed the stairs** of the minbar to speak to the rest of the people in the mosque.
- The writing on the minbar mentions **Sultan Qa'itbay** who ruled Egypt for 28 years.
- During his long reign, Sultan Qa'itbay **built** new mosques with many beautiful furnishings, such as this minbar.



### Step 1. Look at the patterns

The minbar is made of **wood** and decorated with geometric shapes. Some of the shapes are filled with small pieces of carved **ivory**. The ivory came from elephant tusks. Each ivory panel is decorated with symmetrical patterns made from curving lines and shapes that look like leaves.

Can you see the **geometric shapes** and plant patterns?

The minbar is very old and some of its carved ivory shapes are missing. Can you see the gaps?

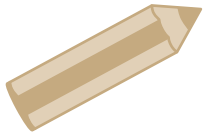
**Look** for the place on the side of the minbar where a large ivory star is missing.

How many points has this star got?

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Can you find any other stars on the minbar?  
How many points have they got?

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**Step 2. Design your own star**

Try designing a new star for the Minbar!

Draw curvy lines and leaf or flower shapes to make a symmetrical pattern in the star below.

