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The Mandala

An Ancient Art Form





The word “Mandala” means
“sacred circle” in Sanskrit, which
is an ancient Indian language

Mandalas show **Radial Symmetry**-
equal balance around a central point



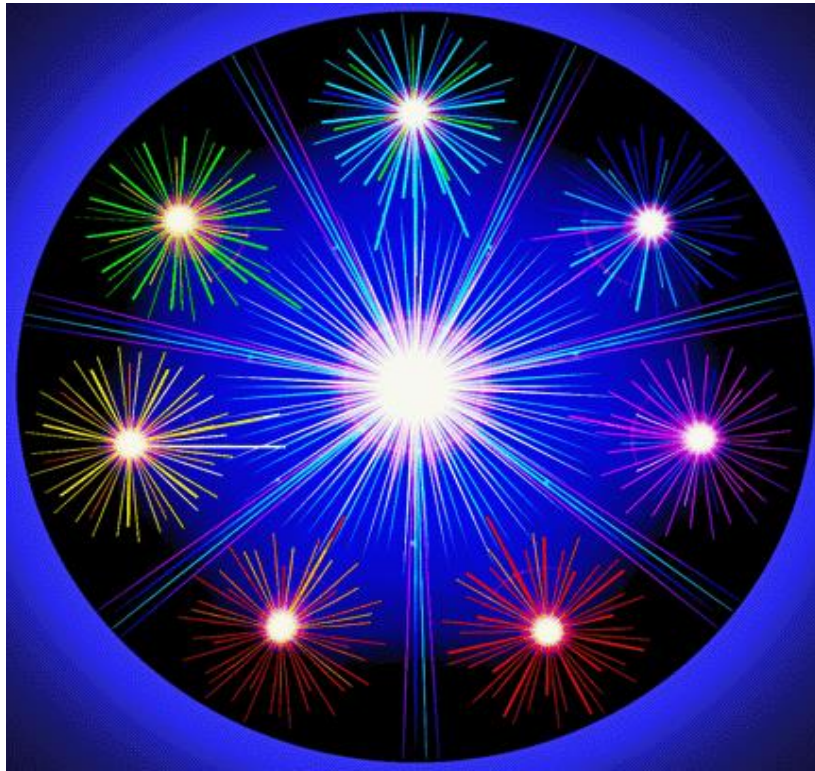
A mandala can be described as any form of circular geometric design that contains symbols of a person's inner self, guiding principles, and overall ideas about the world.



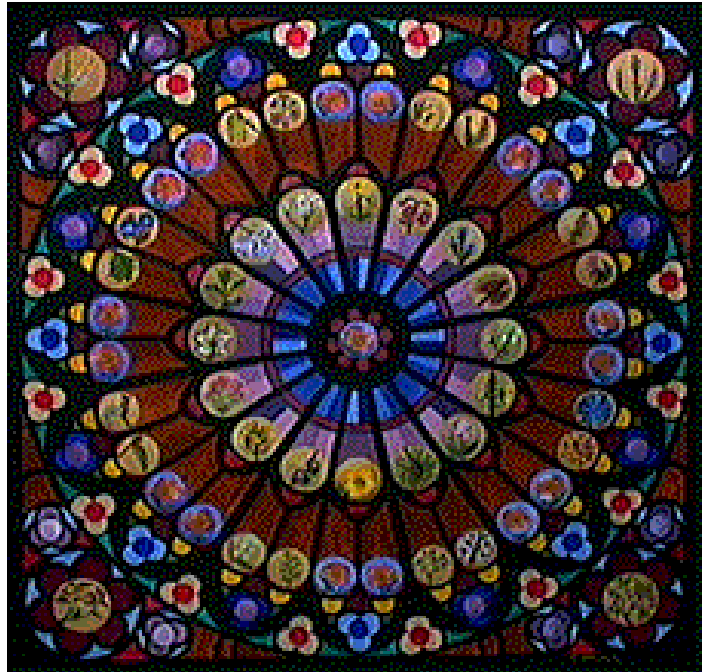
We can feel & spot “Mandalas” in our day life as a non-material concept, like circle of families, friends & community, and as a material concept like the circle of the earth, moon



In some cultures, the mandala is a
symbol of life

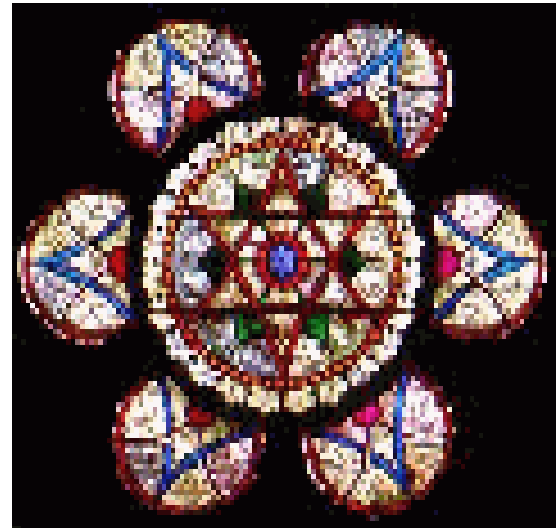
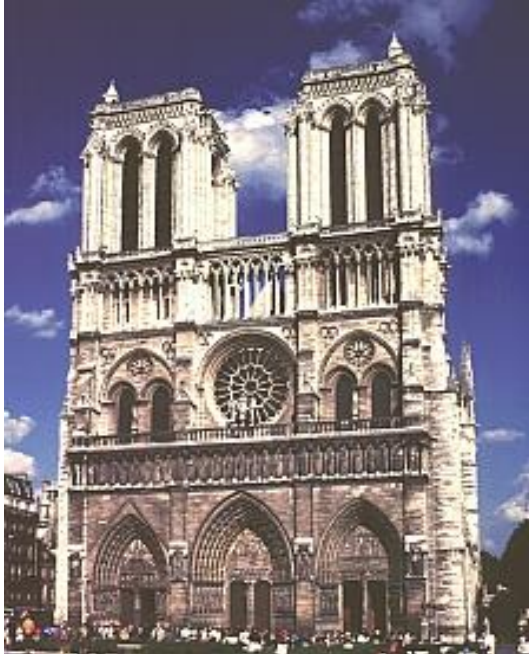


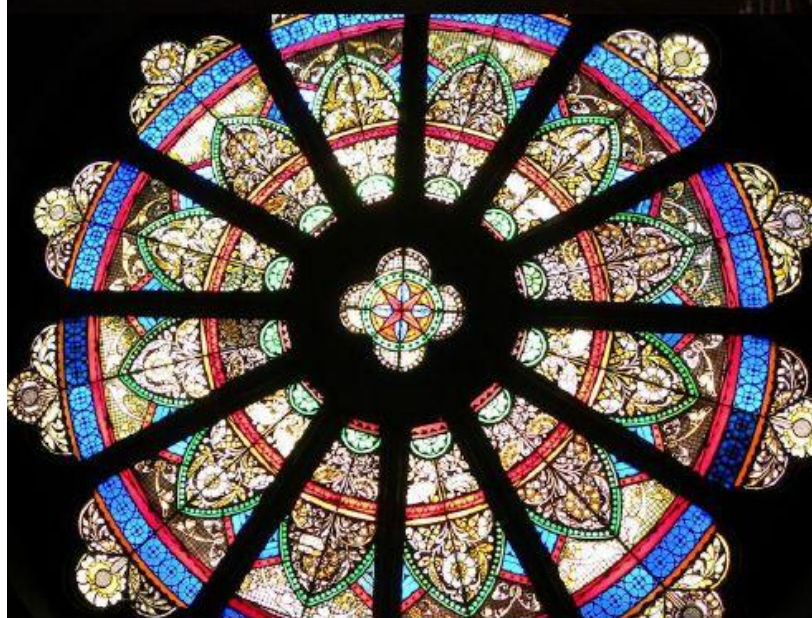
Mandalas have appeared
throughout history in many
religions



Many churches throughout the world have stained glass windows with mandala designs

- **The Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris is famous for its rose windows**





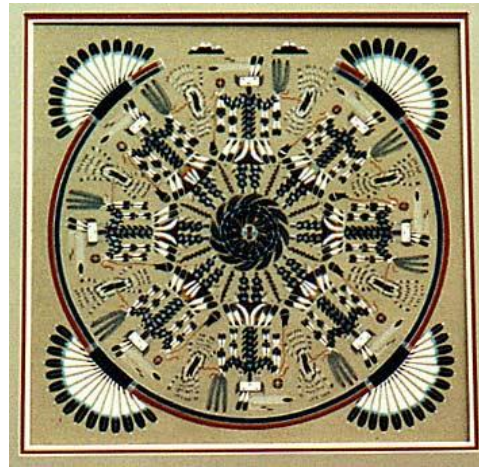
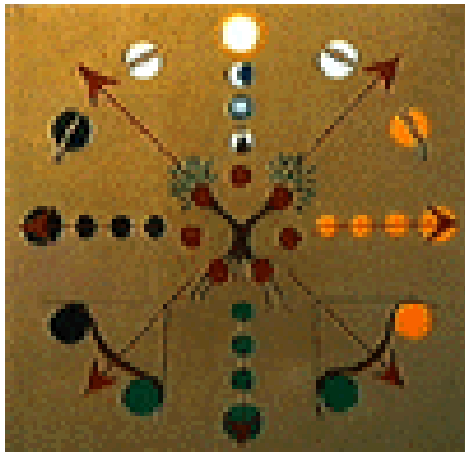
Rose
Window
mandalas



Celtic
mandalas



Navajo Indians make mandalas
out of sand to show the
impermanence of life





Native American mandalas



The Aztec Calendar was both a
timekeeping tool and a religious
expression





Mayan
mandalas



The most famous mandalas are
made by the people who live in
Tibet and the Himalayan
Mountains in Northern India.





Buddhist mandalas

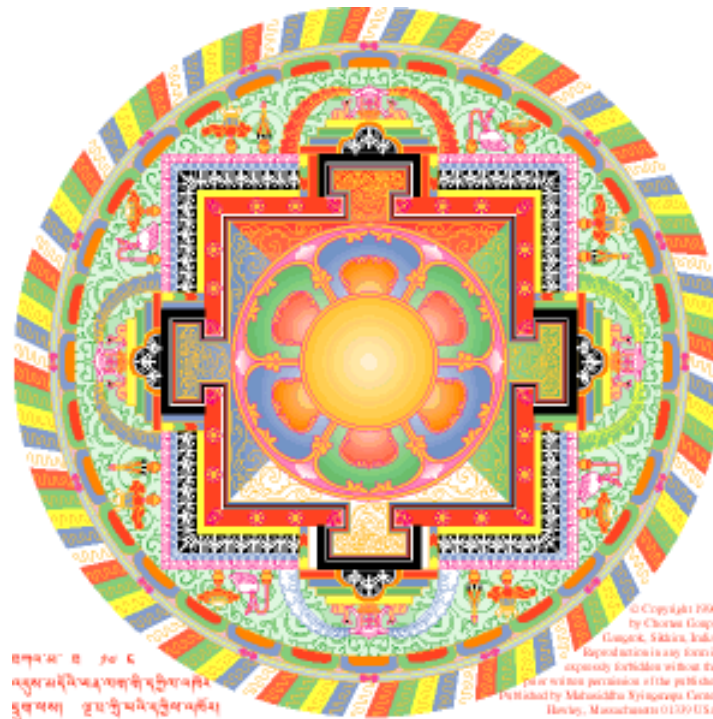
http://youtu.be/ga5s_qYgJS8



Buddhists believe that we are reborn many times so that we can keep learning about life. This is called *reincarnation*. The Buddhist mandala shows that life is circular and does not end.



**The geometry that Buddhists use to
create the mandalas is considered to
be sacred**



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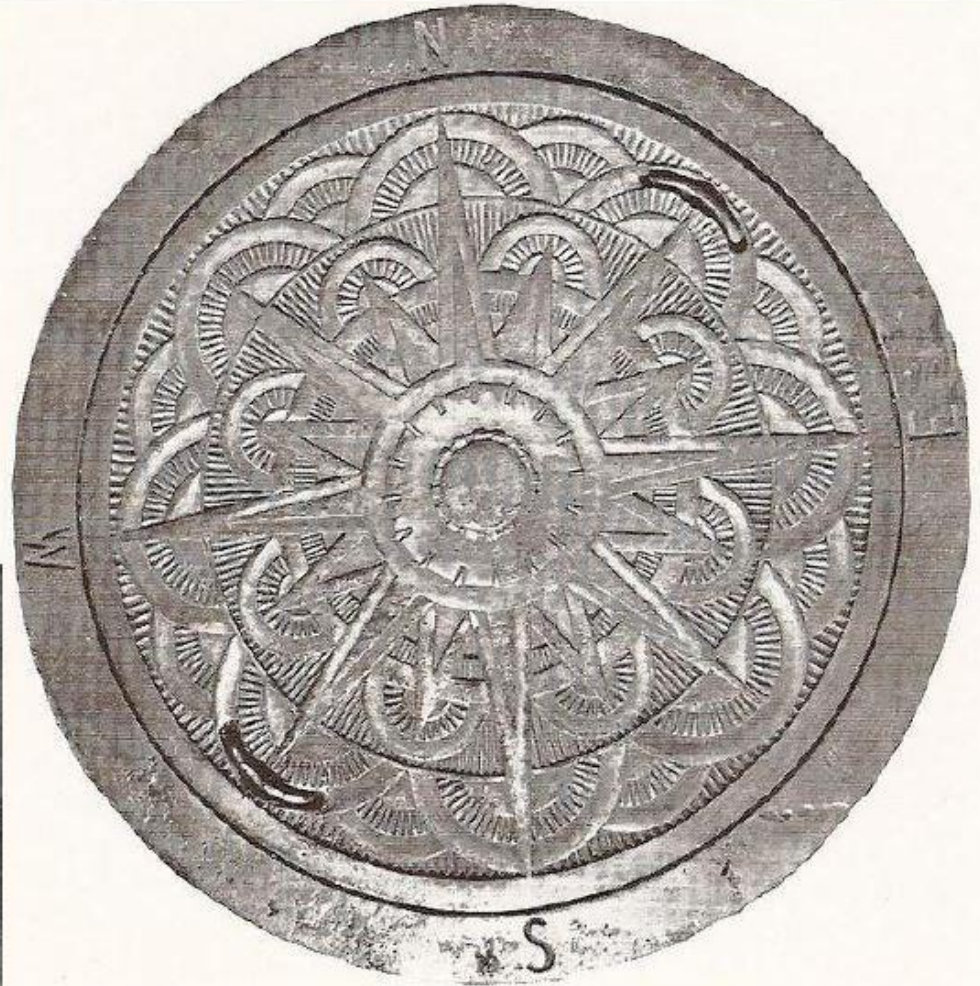
all
natural
mandalas







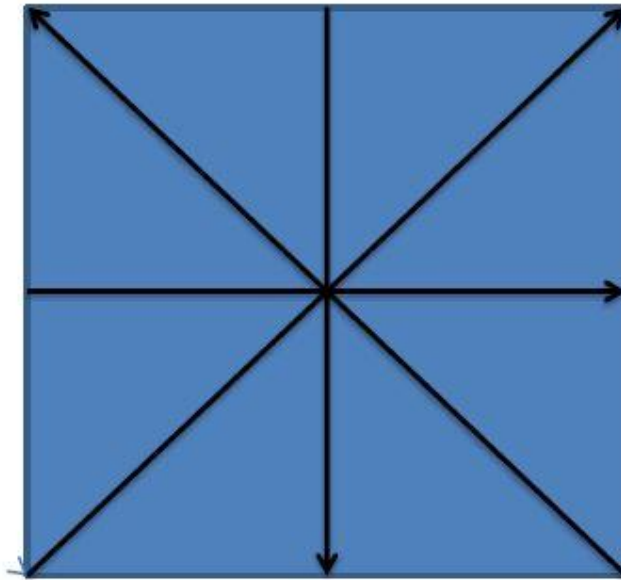
not-so-natural mandalas



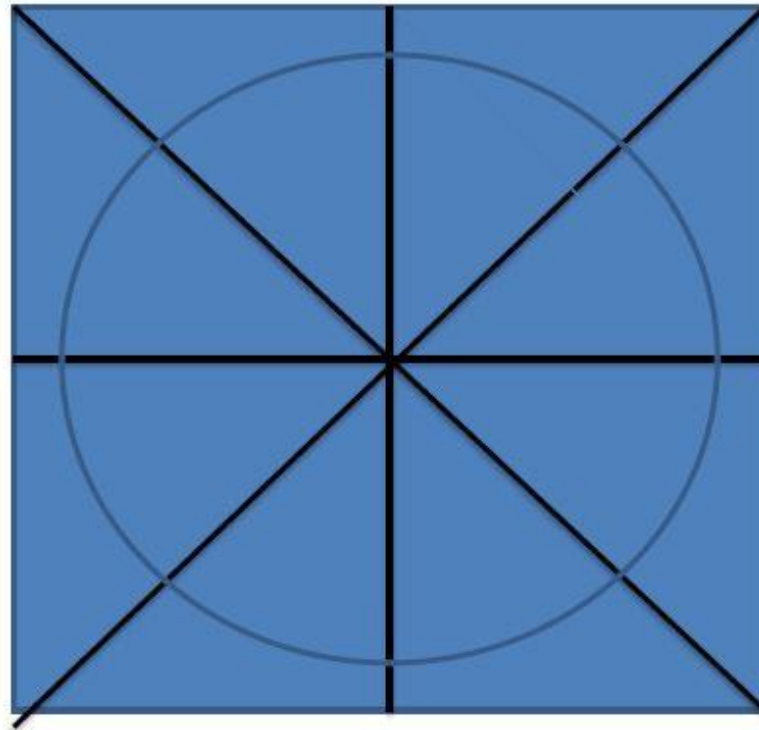


The Steps:

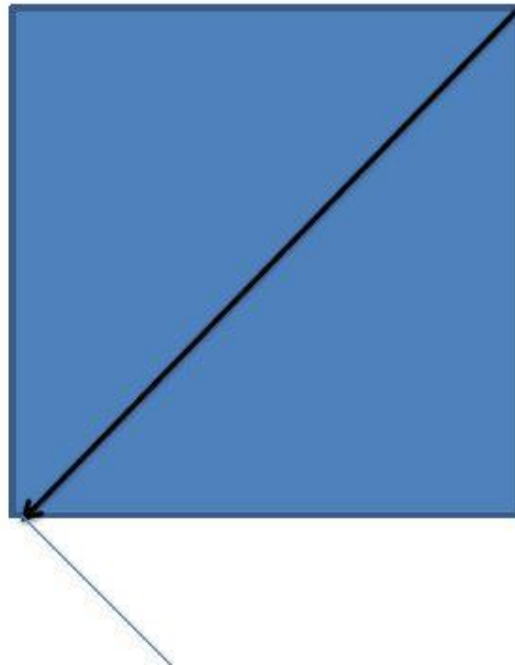
1. Divide an 11 inch square piece of drawing paper into 8 sections



- You can use a compass to make your Mandala circular, if you like



2. Cut a 5 inch square out of copy paper, then cut it in half diagonally, creating 2 triangles. You will only need one of them



3. Create any kind of design on your triangle, but make sure that your designs touch the edges.

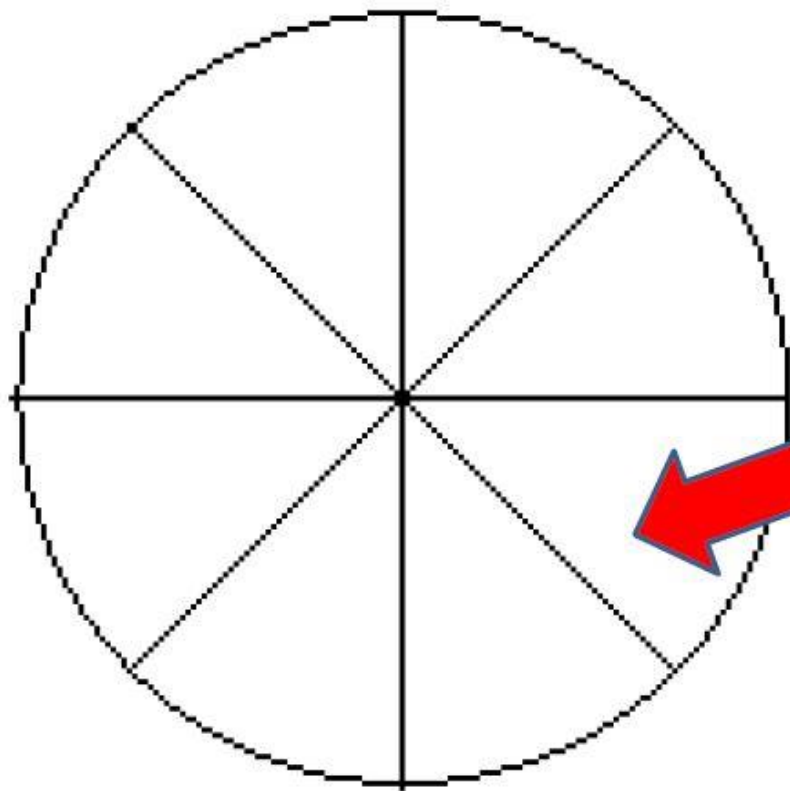
Then, turn the triangle over and trace the reverse side. You will need to hold it up to a window or use a light table so that you can see through the paper.



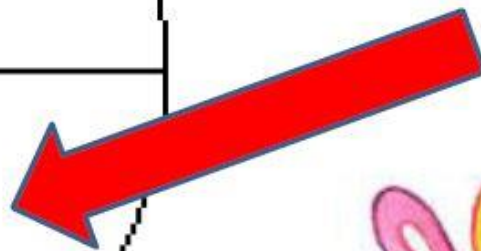
4. Using a window or a light table, trace your design underneath the large square paper, fitting it carefully into the center axis. There will be space left around the outside edges for a border. *Use a fine point sharpie, so that the design will show up.*

Flip the design over, creating a reflection of the image in the next square and continue to repeat your tracing.





Remember that you are drawing ONLY a pie piece of the mandala design!



Try to incorporate some meaning into your mandala by using symbols of things that are important to you!

Use any color scheme that you like to completely color your Mandala. Your design should include all 4 or these techniques. Be sure to keep your design symmetrical, though!

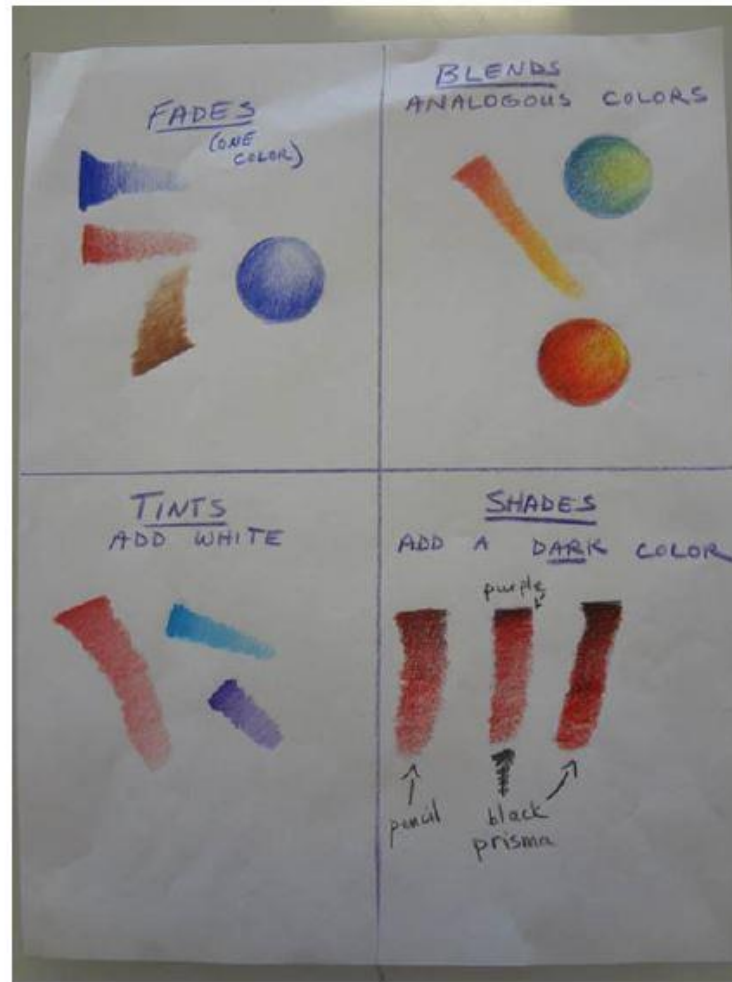
Fades: Press hard and then decrease the pressure on the pencil, so that the value goes from dark to light

Blends: Blend one analogous color into another, layering them so that they mix

Tints: Put a layer of white over your color, creating a tint or pastel color

Shades: put a light layer of pencil, black Prismacolor or another dark color under your color to create a shade

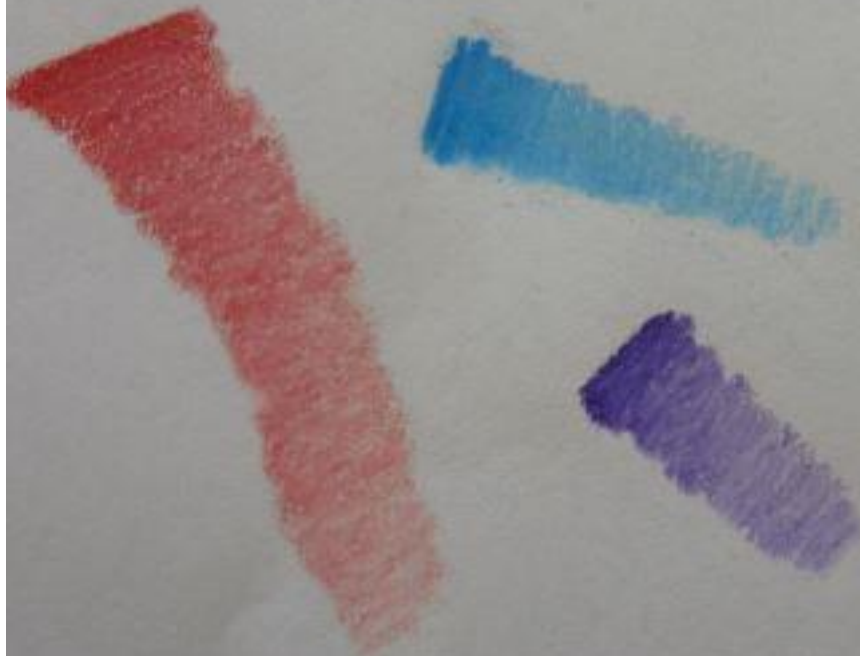
Examples of these techniques:



BLENDS
ANALOGOUS COLORS



TINTS
ADD WHITE



SHADES

ADD A DARK COLOR

purple



↑
pencil

↑
black
prisma

Here are some more Mandala
designs







