

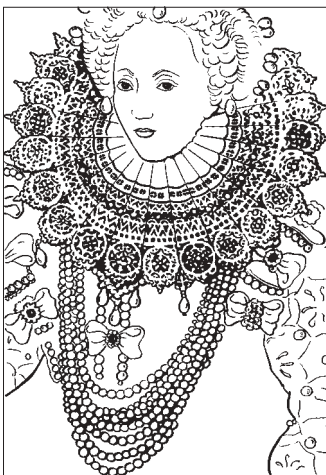
Activity for K–6 students: paper ‘lace’ workshop

Aim

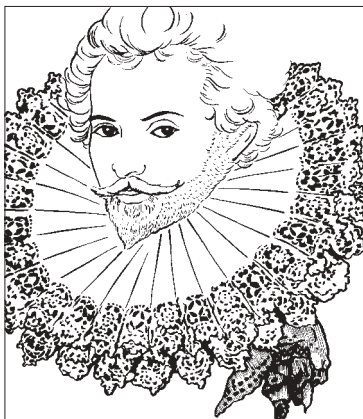
To introduce the concept of lace as a ‘decorative openwork fabric in which the pattern of spaces is as important as the solid areas’.

Background

Explain to students how in the past only rich people wore lace. It was so beautiful and so expensive that it made people feel really important when they wore it. Men wore just as much lace as women — sometimes more. Ask students to imagine men wearing lace. Point out that today men don’t tend to wear lace although women’s clothing and accessories often contain lace.



(Above) Queen Elizabeth I (1533–1603); (below) Sir Walter Raleigh (1552–1618), a famous explorer and friend of Queen Elizabeth I.



Ask students to suggest some examples of lace they have seen. Discuss with students what they think makes lace so beautiful. Explain that it is probably not the colour because most lace is white or one colour only. Suggest that it might be the pattern of the holes. Note that real lace takes a lot of time to make, either with a needle and thread or with bobbins on a pillow.

The following simple activity allows students to make ‘lace’ out of paper.

Instructions

Students will need paper, scissors and a square doyley pattern (see back of sheet). Variations on this simple doyley can be made using a round or fan-shaped pattern.

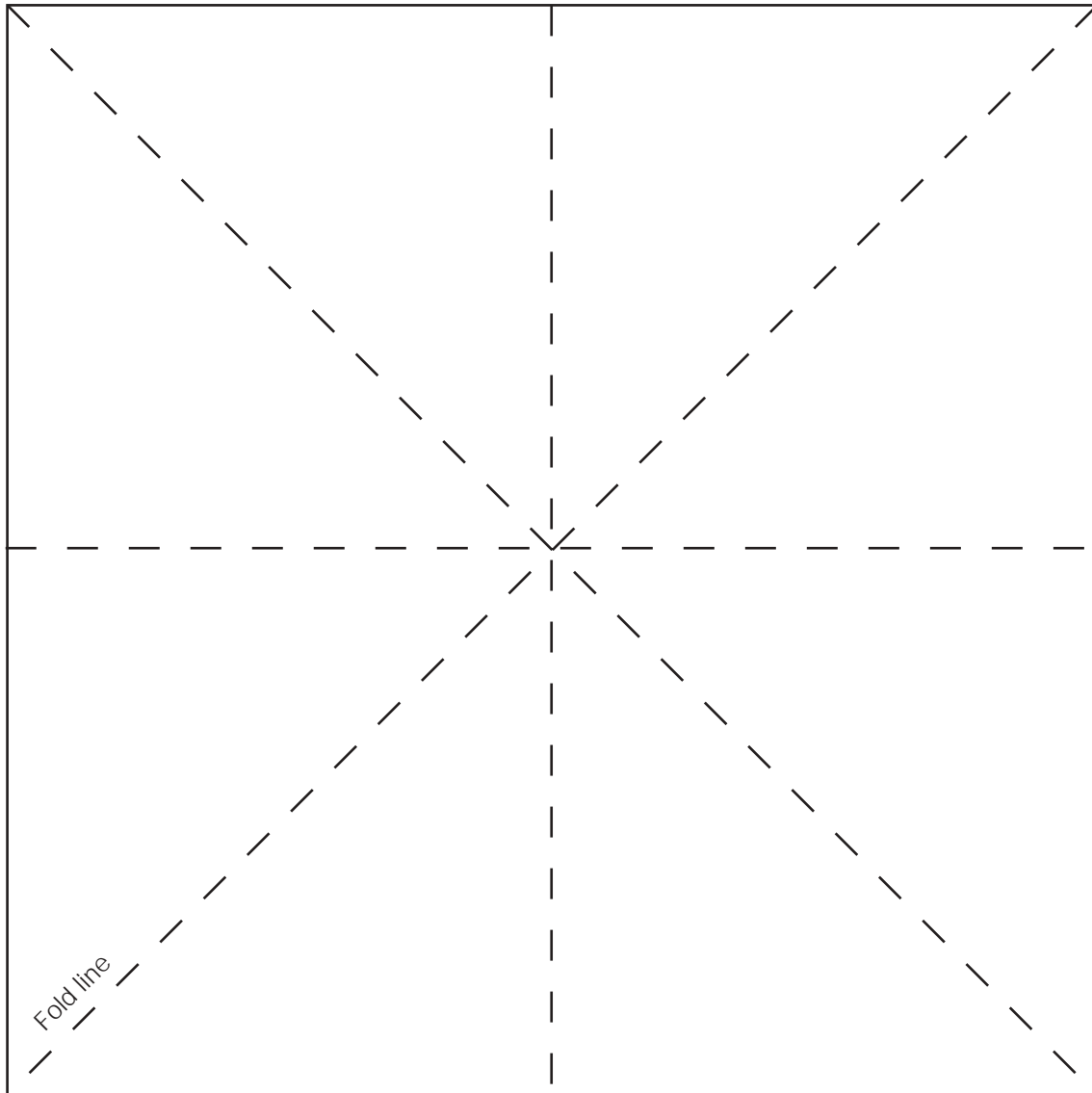
1. Fold pattern along lines until you have a triangle.
2. Cut several designs or shapes out of the triangle.
3. Unfold to view your finished ‘lace’.

Note: younger children may require some assistance to cut through all the folded layers. All young children should be carefully supervised when using scissors.



Cotton crocheted lace doyley, early 20th century.

Activity for K–6 students



Lace Study Centre

Open 10.30 am – 1.30 pm weekdays

For inquiries and bookings

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