Islamic art has distinctive design elements which are often combined in a single object. These include:

- calligraphy
- plant or floral designs, arabesques and flowers
- geometric shapes and designs
- symmetry and repeated patterns
- rich colours
- decorative patterns

**Recording your thoughts...**

- Descriptive words - shape, design or pattern
- Look for repeated motifs and patterns
- How might these designs be used as inspiration for a contemporary artist?
- What are the key colours - how are they used?
- Compare and contrast decorative objects and architectural elements from buildings.

**Good galleries to explore:**

- Gallery 31: Islamic Middle East
- Gallery 7: Money, Islamic coins
- Gallery 6: Reading and Writing
- Gallery 33: Mughal India

**Further resources**

- Ashmolean Education: [www.ashmolean.org/learning-resources](http://www.ashmolean.org/learning-resources)
- Ashmolean Eastern Art Online: [www.jameelcentre.ashmolean.org/](http://www.jameelcentre.ashmolean.org/)