

# Notan Art

From Gill Thompson

Notan is a Japanese art form and means 'dark and light'.

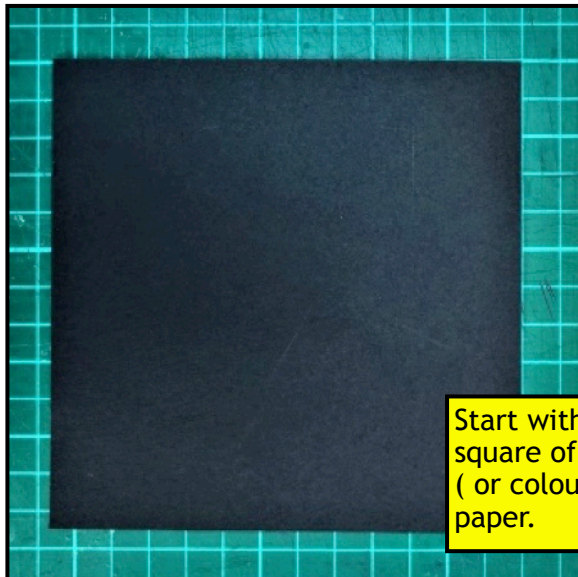
It is a simple activity which can be done with young children with some help and with older students who can develop it to create some unique designs.

## YOU WILL NEED

A sheet of black (or coloured) paper and a sheet of white or a contrasting coloured paper. It is best if the second sheet of paper is a little bigger than the first

Scissors ( appropriate to age and ability )

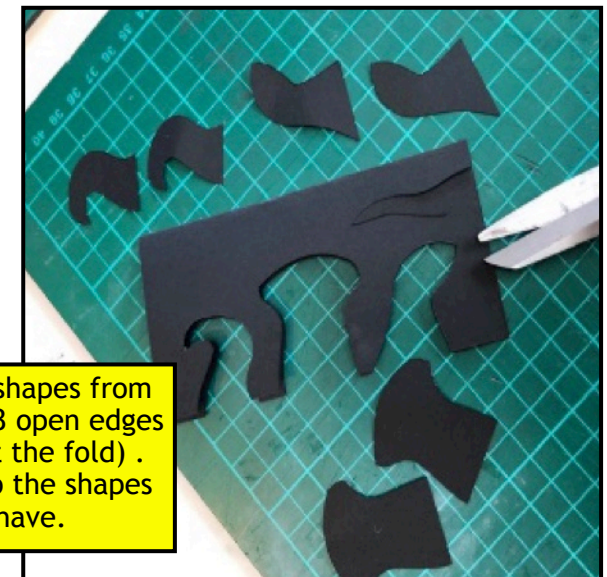
Glue stick



Start with the square of black ( or coloured ) paper.



Fold the black paper in half carefully.

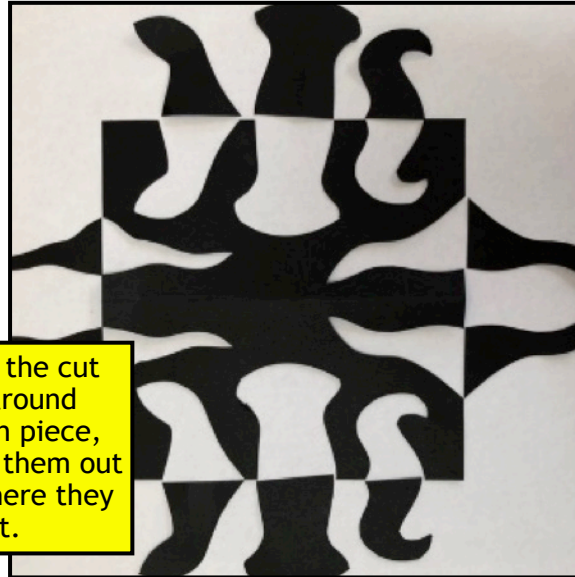


Cut shapes from the 3 open edges ( not the fold ) . Keep the shapes you have.

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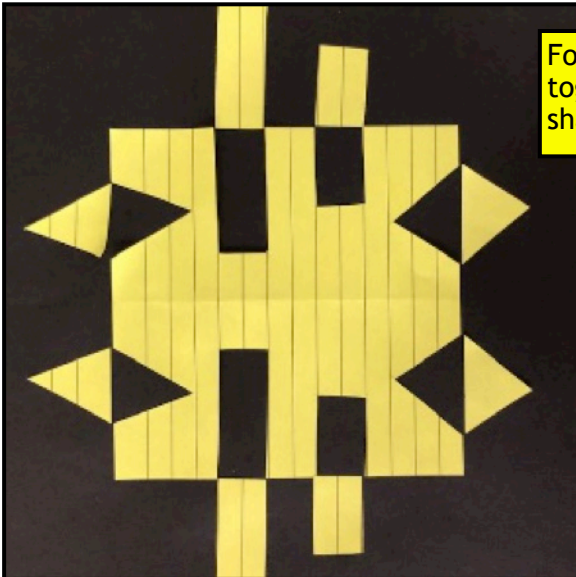
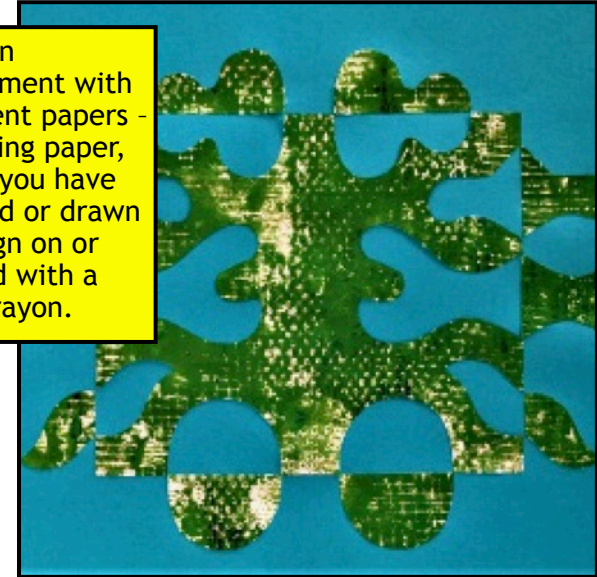


Open up the black paper. You will end up with something a bit like this.



Arrange the cut pieces around the main piece, flipping them out from where they were cut.

You can experiment with different papers - wrapping paper, paper you have painted or drawn a design on or rubbed with a wax crayon.



For younger children keep the cut out shapes simple. You may need to do the cutting for them. When you piece it back together, put the cut-out bits back in place and then they can be flipped over to make the design. Talk about the shapes, match the shapes to the spaces, what does the new design remind you of?

Skills : following instructions, cutting with scissors, matching shapes/visual recognition, look at whether the finished design is symmetrical or not, opportunities to develop further and make it more complex, look up Notan art on the internet - there are lots of ideas.