

Negative Space

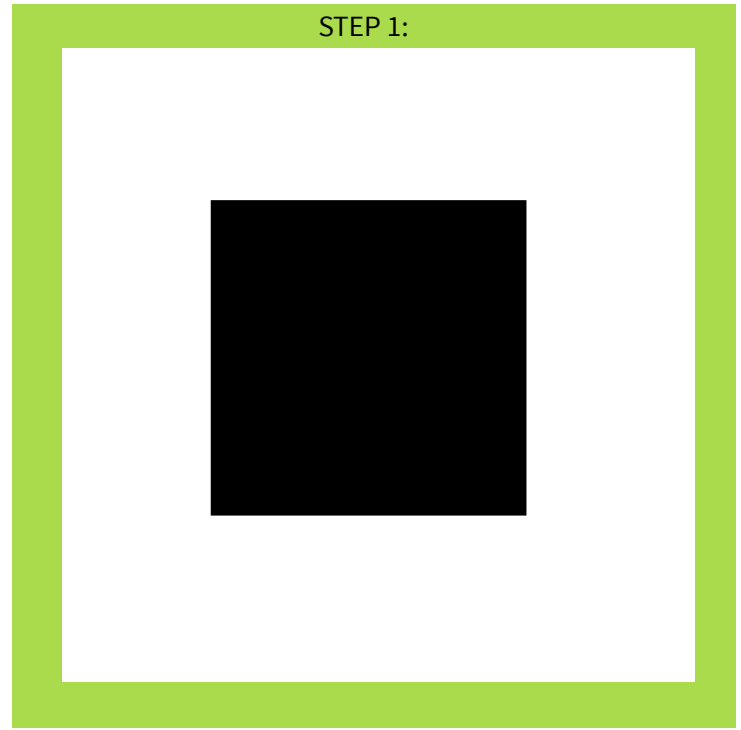
Art-making activity

Notan Square

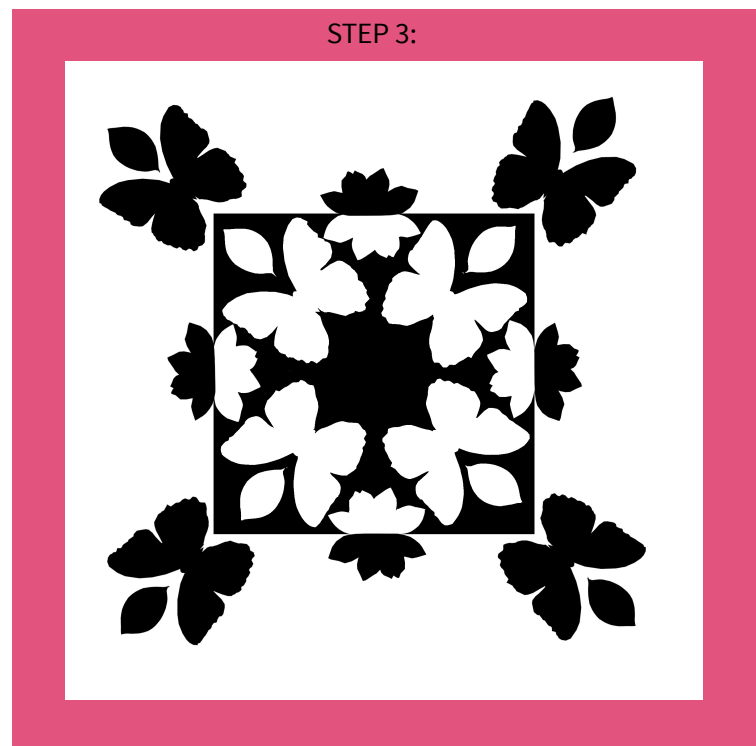
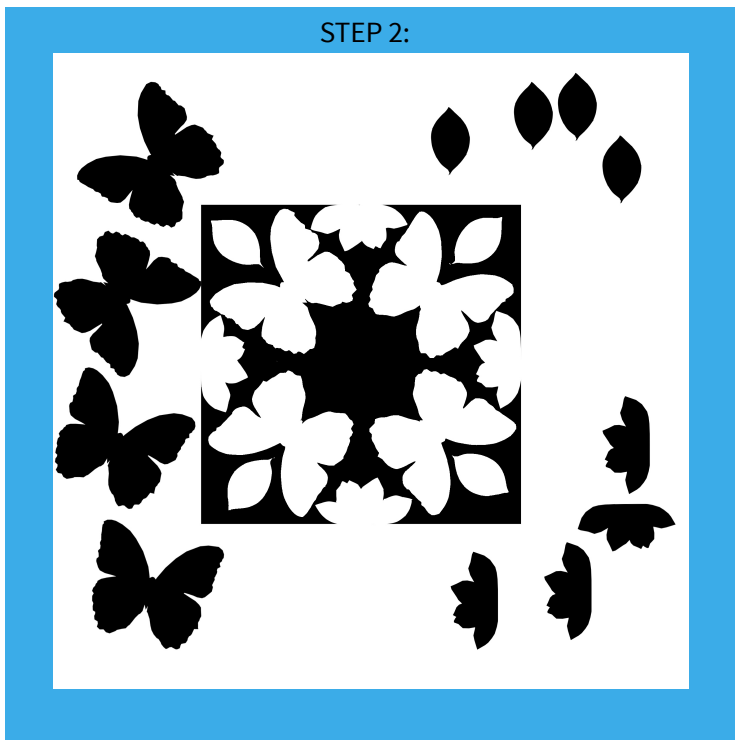


The Notan Square demonstrates the interaction between **negative and positive space** in art. Western culture tends to emphasize positive (or figure) space. In this project you will use your creativity to design art that uses both negative and positive space to make a harmonious composition.

The first step is to find a white sheet of paper and a black sheet of paper (or a dark color of your choosing.) You will then cut a square out the dark paper that will be smaller than the white piece of paper.



The next step is to mark your sheet of paper with the designs you would like to cut out. The shapes may be imagery like animals or abstract forms. Once you have made your marks on the dark paper square you may proceed to cut out your shapes.



The final step is to arrange the shapes that you cut out so that they mirror the **negative space**. You may then glue all the shapes down on the larger white paper square. Feel free to break the rules and add color or create an asymmetrical design.

For more in-depth reading check out this link:
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/532e0903e4b0c530c24a563c/t/533b3366e4b0c47740cd71ee/1396388710966/ExpandedSquare-JDTutorial.pdf>

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If you do not have any black paper: print out and then cut out the black square and use it for this project.

