

MOSAICS FROM MANY FAITHS

"We must ... be connected and blended together until each part shall become the expression of the whole ... This is the unity of the world of humanity." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

The people in our world make up an amazing mosaic of cultures, beliefs, and traditions. In a similar way, the practice of mosaic art brings many different pieces together in a unified work.

Since ancient times, artists have used stones, tiles, pieces of glass, and other materials to make mosaics that tell stories or create intricate designs. Holy places use

beautiful mosaics, from stained glass windows in a Christian cathedral to geometric patterns in a Muslim mosque.

Like other art forms, enjoying or creating mosaics can help us feel closer to God. You can make your own mosaic to represent your faith or your hopes for peace. When you express yourself with art, you are adding a unique piece to the mosaic of our world.

YOU'LL NEED

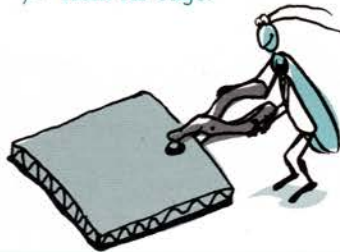
Aluminum foil • measuring cup • pencil • 2 pieces of 6" x 6" corrugated cardboard
glue • scissors • hole punch • 6" piece of ribbon • large bowl • flour • salt • water
two colors of food coloring • small colorful beads, beans, sequins, or pebbles

MOSAIC FOR PEACE

- 1** On one piece of cardboard, draw a large and thick symbol of faith or peace, then cut it out.



- 2** On the other piece of cardboard, punch a hole in the center of the top, $\frac{1}{2}$ " from its edge.



- 3** Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of flour and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of salt in your bowl. Slowly add small amounts of water while using your hands to knead the mixture, until it feels like slightly tacky, thick dough.



- 4** Add four drops of one food coloring to a large handful of dough and blend.



- 5** Cover the top of your symbol with dough so it's about $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick.



- 6** Put glue on the cardboard backing of your symbol, and press it onto the other sheet of cardboard.



- 7** Add five drops of another food coloring to the rest of your dough for the background. Cover the exposed cardboard around your symbol with this dough, leaving the hole at the top open.



- 8** Add a little water to the surface of the dough to help the mosaic pieces of the dough. Press beans, beads, sequins, or pebbles into the dough.



- 9** Lay your project on a piece of foil, and let it dry for about a week. When it's dry, tie a ribbon loop for hanging.