

Mexican Folk Art Mirror

Senior (9-12 years)

What we are going to do:

Use your imagination to create a colourful patterned Mexican folk art mirror.

What you will need:

- Cardstock paper (coloured or white)
- Paints – acrylic or tempera
- scissors
- glue
- tin foil
- pencil and eraser
- paintbrushes

What you can also use:

- markers



Mexican Folk Art Mirrors



photo: Mymexicantiles

Let's take a trip to Mexico to the town of San Miguel de Allende. Since the 1500's it's been here that Mexican Folk artists specialize in making punched tin decorative mirrors. These mirrors are not only beautiful, they are also functional as well. The mirrors are considered mixed media because they use a variety of different materials from tin, paint, ceramic and glass.

Today you are going to create your very own mirror inspired by this Mexican art form using paper and tin foil. Think about pattern, balance, colour and movement when you're creating your design. You will also have the opportunity to try a new technique called embossing. Embossing is creating a raised relief on a surface – this will be done on the tin foil using your pencil. Take a look at the Mexican tiles above to give you an idea of traditional Mexican pattern and colour.

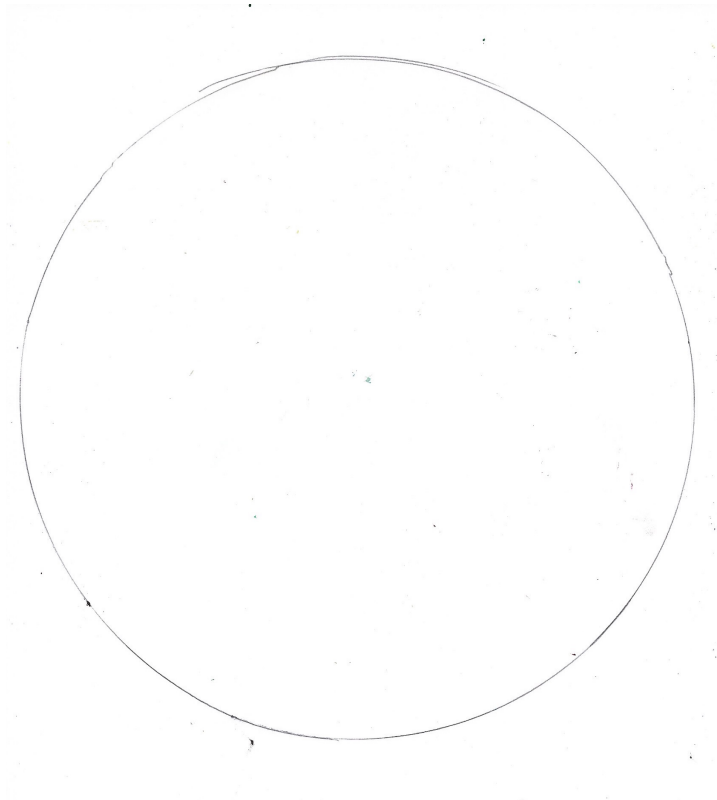
1

CREATE THE CIRCLES

The first step for making your Mexican mirror is to create the circles on the paper and tin foil. Try to use as much of the space of the paper as possible to create your base for the first circle. You can use coloured paper or white paper.

Now create a circle about half the size of the first circle on your tin foil. Take a look at the examples below.

Tip- find round objects in your house to trace around so you can create the perfect circle.



2

ATTACH THE CIRCLES

Once you have your circles drawn use your scissors to cut them out. Then use glue to attach the tin foil (shiny side out) onto the center of the paper circle.

3

EMBOSS YOUR TIN FOIL

Now you're ready to emboss!

Use your pencil to draw onto the surface of the tin foil. By pressing the pencil down onto the surface you'll create raised and depressed areas. Add shapes and lines in a pattern to this area – you can make it as simple or as complicated as you wish.

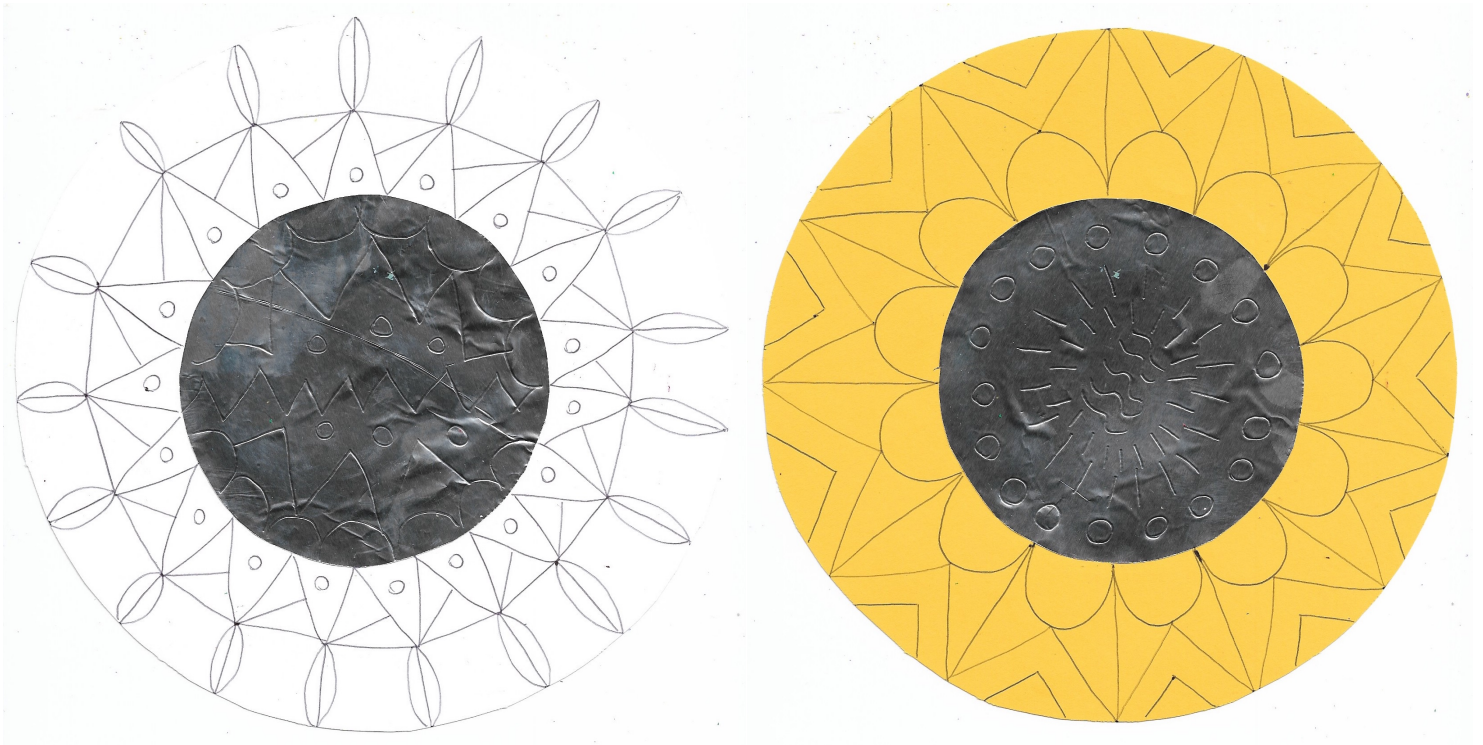


4

CREATE THE DESIGN

It's time to create the patterned design around the frame of your mirror.

Use your pencil and eraser to draw out the pattern that you want to create as the frame around the tin. Use simple shapes and lines and think about repetition and movement. Take a look at the examples below, and also refer back to the patterns on the tiles in the introduction.



5

ADD COLOUR

Now for the final step! Add colour to your patterned frame. Choose your colours and apply them to emphasize your pattern.

I used acrylic paint to colour the frames, but you could also markers. Take a look at the examples below.



