

DECORATE FOR SPRING

Decorate to celebrate the coming of spring, inspired by an 800 year old dish!



Look at the above dish from Iran. What is something special about it?

This dish has seven different sections! It is likely that it was used during the annual celebration of the first day of spring, called Nowruz (Persian word for 'new day'), which also marks the New Year in countries such as Iran. During Nowruz, the dish would have been used to store seven different items, like apple, vinegar, garlic, and coins, to celebrate the renewal of life in spring. This practice of filling a table with seven items is called Haft sin.

You can learn more about this dish from the Aga Khan Museum by clicking [here](#).

DID YOU KNOW

The names of the seven items arranged for the Haft sin all begin with the letter 'S' in Persian, which is called 'sin.'

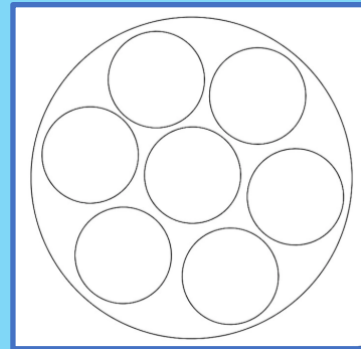
ACTIVITY

MATERIALS:

Paper, pencil, eraser, colouring pencils or crayons

STEPS:

Draw the outline of a dish with seven sections, inspired by the dish from the Aga Khan Museum.



Now decorate this dish to celebrate spring! What designs would you like to decorate it with? Would you want to decorate each section differently?

You can draw designs like flowers, trees, birds and more inspired by spring in different sections of this dish. Then, fill in the drawings with colours using colouring pencils or crayons.

Share your work with us at:
learn@agakhanmuseum.org

Image: **Dish with Seven Sections, possibly for the Haft-Sin**, Iran, Rayy, late 12th to early 13th century, Earthenware, with lustre-painting on an opaque white glaze (lustre ware), 8.9 x 31.1 cm, AKM739

