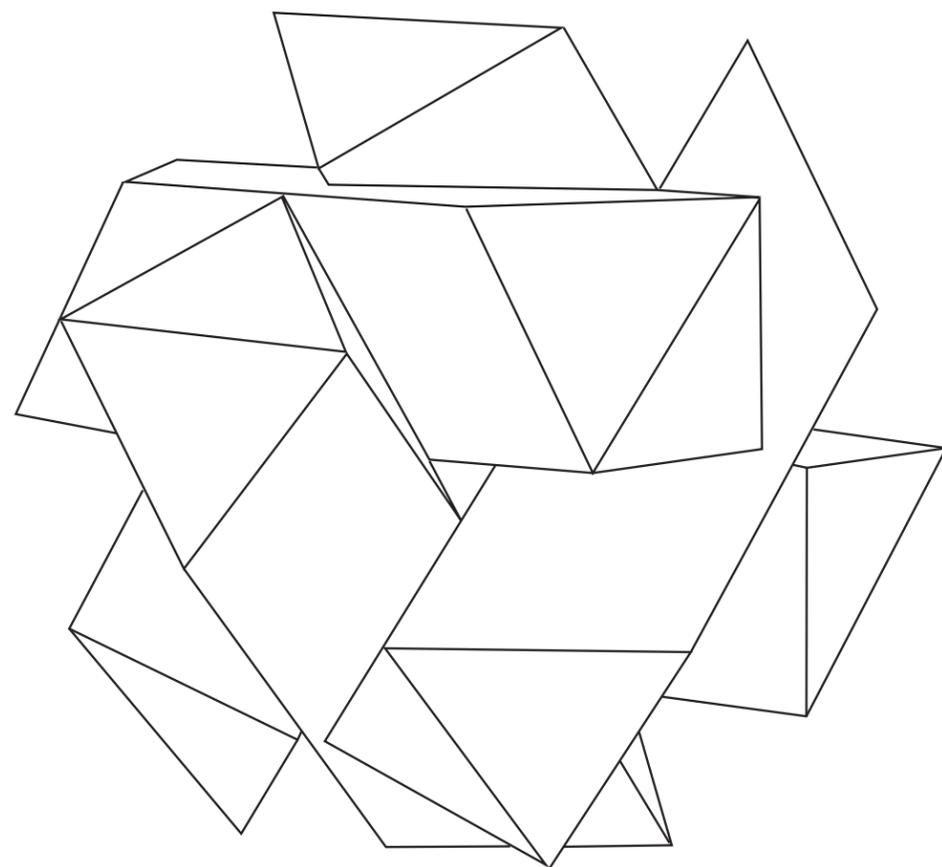


CULTURAL  
AWARENESS

OBSERVANCE



## ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH Activity Book



Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebrates the culture, traditions, and history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States and the undeniable impact they have had on our nation.

### *From Ho Chi Minh City to Brigadier General*

**Lapthe Flora**, is the first Vietnamese boat person to be promoted to a general officer in the U.S. Army

“After eating at the table of democracy, is it too much to ask to clean up your dishes? Is it too much to ask to share the burden?” –General Flora

In 1980, after three years hiding in the jungle, Châu The Lap, fled by boat to Indonesia, where he was placed in a refugee camp. He was a traumatized teenager with a fifth-grade education when he arrived in the U.S.

He knew how to survive in the jungle, evade checkpoints, and control the terror he often felt. But he couldn't speak more than a few words of English and had little practice in living a regular life.

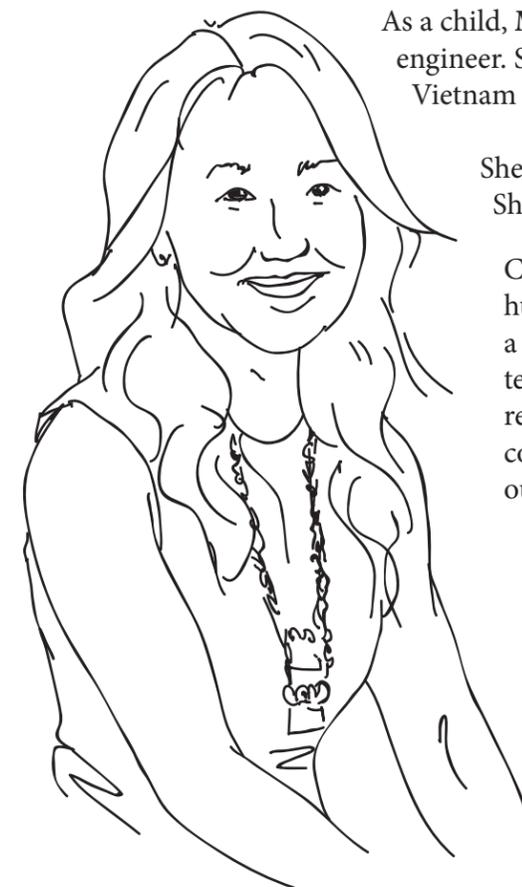
Despite the challenges, seven years after his arrival in the United States, he had a new name, a degree from the Virginia Military Institute and a career as he put it as, “an officer in the greatest Army on Earth.”

### *From Refugee to Engineer*

As a child, **Mai Lee Chang** did not envision working for NASA or becoming an engineer. She was born in the Ban Vinai Refugee Camp in Thailand during the Vietnam War.

She and her family settled in the U.S. in 1992, when she was six years old. She started school only knowing one English word, “restroom.”

Chang now performs research and develops technology in the fields of human-robot interaction and human-automation interaction. She is a part of the International Space Station (ISS) Flight Crew Integration team. This team ensures that science experiments meet human factors requirements in order to maximize the time available for astronauts to conduct science research onboard the ISS. Her work is a critical part in our goals to travel to Mars!



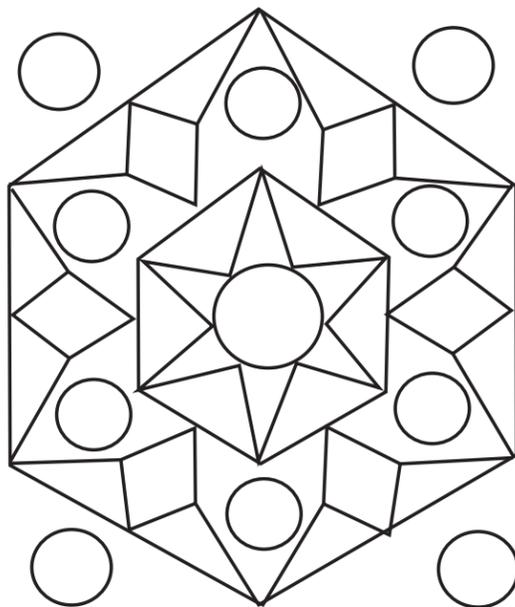
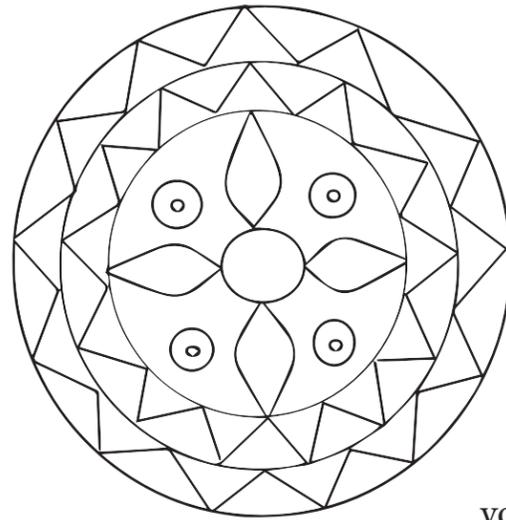
## RANGOLI Diwali Craft

Rangolis are special patterns usually made from rice, flour, and sugar or other materials such as cereals, grains, sand, or beads. They combine dots, lines, and flower patterns to create colorful designs on the ground in homes in India and throughout the world, especially during Diwali—the Hindu festival of light. Rangoli is one of the most popular art forms in India!

The designs are based on nature or geometric patterns using lines and shapes, drawn around a grid of dots. Designs are passed from one generation to the next, keeping both the art form and the tradition alive.

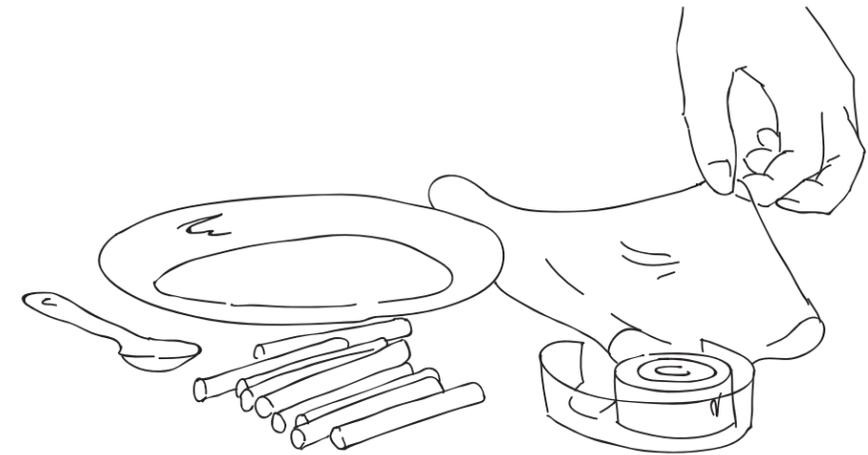
Here's what you'll need:

- Salt
- Colored chalk
- Plates
- White piece of card stock
- Pencil or marker
- Containers or sealable sandwich bags (to keep the colored salt in)
- Cookie sheet
- Clear contact paper
- Tape
- A Rangoli-inspired pattern
- Scissors



### The Steps:

1. First, pour some salt on a plate, and rub it with the chalk until it turns a bright color. Make as many colors as you'd like! (You can store your colored salt in small containers to use over and over.)
2. Draw your Rangoli pattern and tape it to the cookie sheet.
3. Then, take a piece of contact paper, and tape it sticky side up over the pattern.
4. Use the colored salt to fill in the pattern. You don't need a lot of salt—in fact, if you use too much salt, you'll have problems with the next step.



5. After you've filled in your design... put another piece of contact paper, sticky side down, on top of your design to keep the salt in place.

6. Use the scissors to cut out your Rangoli artwork and hang it up or display it as it is!

