

Indian Art

Learning Objective:

To explore and create Mehndi patterns.



Do you
know what
henna is? Do you
know how it is
used in India?

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Henna is a small shrub that grows in India and other places around the world. Henna leaves are crushed into a powder and then mixed with water and lemon juice to make a paste. This paste is then used on people's skin, hair and special cloth.

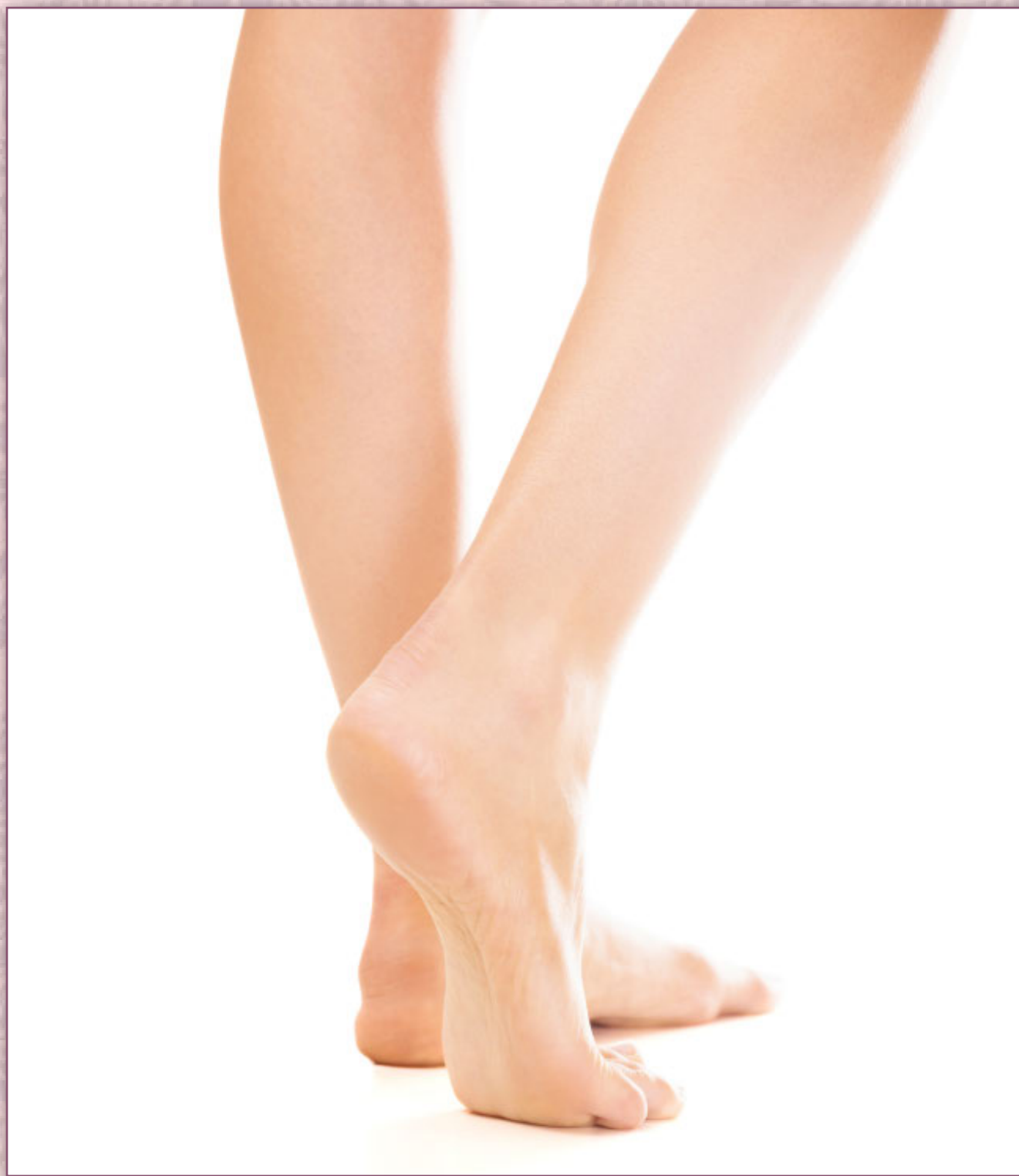


Henna paste is used to create intricate designs on the skin. This process is called mehndi in India. Once the paste has been applied to the skin it needs to be left to dry for a long time. The paste then gets rubbed off and a temporary tattoo is left behind.





What
parts of the
body are usually
decorated with
mehndi patterns
and why?



Mehndi patterns are usually created on women's feet, legs, hands and arms. This is because these body parts are seen the most when they wear their traditional clothes or wedding dress.



Have you seen a lady with mehndi patterns on her arms and legs?



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Do you know
what symmetry
means? Mehndi
patterns are often
symmetrical.

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A symmetrical pattern is made up of exactly the same parts on both sides of a line or around an axis.

Can you see the symmetry in this mehndi design? How was it created?



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Let's
look at some
more mehndi
designs. Can you see
how each one is
symmetrical?



What patterns
can you see? What
shapes can you see?
How is it
symmetrical?



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