

What do I need?

Printed copy of page 3 on A4 card

Scissors

Glue

Pencil

Craft materials such graph paper, tissue paper, paints, colouring pens or pencils, modelling clay, lolly sticks, etc.



Spanish shoebox garden

What do I do?

Look at page 2 to get inspiration for your shoebox design by learning about the *Patio de los Naranjos* (orange tree courtyard) at Seville Cathedral in Spain.

Cut around the outside of the template on page 4 so you are left with the net of a shoebox with no lid.

Use your pencil to draw a Moorish-style garden design onto your template. The central rectangle will be the ground and the four outer rectangles will be the enclosing walls. Use the pictures of the *Patio* on page 2 for inspiration.

Once you're happy with your design, you can decorate it with your craft materials. For example, you could make the famous orange trees by scrunching up pieces of tissue paper and sticking them down in rows. You could even cut out the archways in the sides of the box to look like the ones in the *Patio*.

When you've finished, carefully fold the walls inwards along the dashed lines. Fold tabs A-D inwards then use your glue to stick these to the outside of your walls to form a box shape.

If you're feeling very creative, why don't you decorate the outside of your box to look like the stone walls of the cathedral.

Patio de los Naranjos

The *Patio de los Naranjos* or 'orange tree courtyard' (right) is a courtyard garden in the centre of Seville Cathedral in Spain. Originally part of an Almohad mosque (1172-1248) on the site, the courtyard has a similar layout to Moorish garden of the time. The mosque was converted into a cathedral in 1248 when Spain's Moorish period came to an end and Catholicism became the primary religion. The original fountain still remains at the centre of the *Patio* - this would have been used for religious rituals including the cleansing of hands and feet before entering the mosque.

During the construction of the mosque between 1172-1248, the *Patio* was built with influence from Moorish design. Moorish gardens share many similar features with Islamic garden design, especially the use of water and symmetry which can clearly be seen in the layout of the *Patio de los Naranjos* (right). Another important feature of Moorish gardens is the use of aromatic and edible plants like orange trees. It's believed that the smell aids spiritual contemplation. Pattern is also extremely important and can often be seen in intricate mosaic work and hand carved doorways. The cathedral still has traditional Islamic arches running along the north side of the *Patio*, creating a repeat pattern that mirrors the lines of the orange trees.

Seville Cathedral has a very special connection with Marrakech in Morocco. The Giralda (bell tower) was once the minaret of the original mosque. This minaret was itself a replica of the one at the Koutoubia Mosque in Marrakech. While it has since been converted into a cathedral bell tower, the two structures (right) are quite similar in their use of iconic Islamic arches.



Giralda, Seville Cathedral



Koutoubia Mosque, Marrakech

