Crowning Glory

Domed architecture around the world

Introduction:

Domed architecture dates back to the first century AD, perhaps even before. This style of architecture focuses on the construction of large hemispherical roofs built over structures (buildings) which may be square, rectangular or curved. The domes appear to be crowns that add grandeur to their existence. Domed constructions of palaces and temples were first built by *Parthians and Sassanians* of ancient Iran and also by Romans. Today, we see influences of these ancient edifices throughout the world as seen in the Fun Facts and images below.

Our project is to create a free standing domed structure and beautify it. The focus is on symmetry, proportions, measurement and design. Templates are provided so students can access them as physical copies during the virtual lesson.

Fun Facts with Images:

1. **Pantheon**, Rome, Italy – Built in 113 to 125 AD, The Pantheon is the best preserved example of the largest known brick dome in the world. Originally a Roman temple, it is now a *Basilica* (church).

2. **Palace of Sasanian King Ardeshir** at Firuzabad, Iran – Built in 224 AD. Now in ruins, it stands as a testament to Sassanian ingenuity of arched doorways and entrances called *Iwans* which overlooked beautiful gardens. Their architecture directly influenced the Islamic style that followed later.

3. **Dome of the Rock**. Jerusalem, Israel – Completed in 691-692 AD. An octagonal building with a dome reflected in a beautiful gold tone, it was basically built in Byzantine style. It is an Islamic shrine but is also sacred to the Jews and stands protected by UNESCO World heritage.

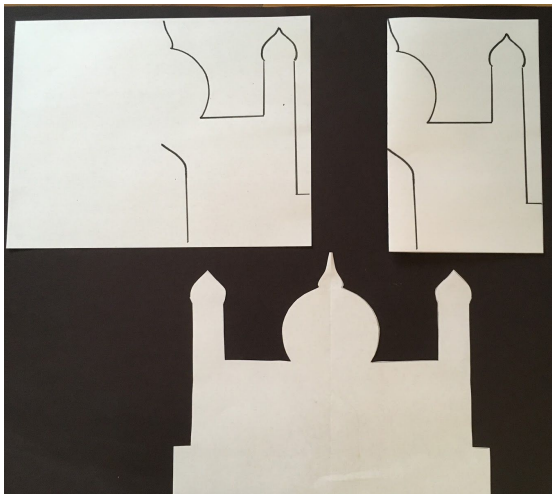
4. **Naqsh-e-Jahan Square, Isfahan, Iran** – A grand plaza built between 1598 to 1629 by the *Safavid* ruler *Shah Abbas* is a well known site with fragrant gardens and architecture that is world renowned for its beauty. It is also a World Heritage site.

5. **The Taj Mahal, Agra, India** – Built in 1632 by the Mughul Emperor *Shah Jehan* is an architectural symbol of love for his beloved wife *Mumtaz Mahal*. This mausoleum is made of white marble and was once studded with real jewels. It is considered to be one of the great wonders of the world.

6. **The Capitol Building, Washington DC, U.S.A.** – Built in 1800 it is a great example of *Neoclassical Architecture* which focuses on Greek and Roman classical style. It stands as a prominent symbol of the United States Government.

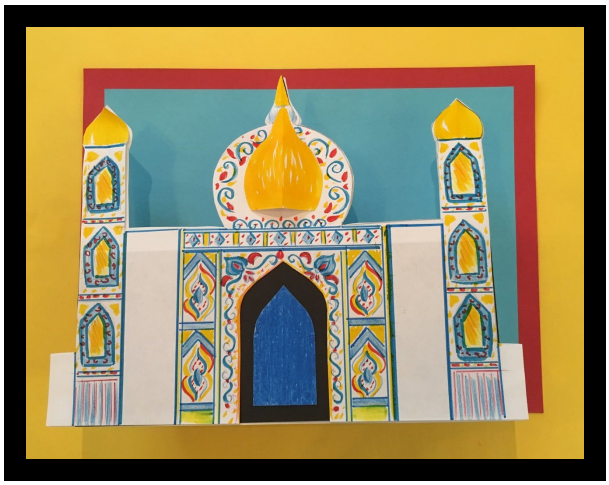
Materials:

- White sheets of paper
- Colored paper (Optional)
- Pencils, erasers, ruler
- Color pencils, markers, crayons (whatever is accessible)
- 2 empty rolls of either toilet paper OR 2 pieces of a paper towel roll cut down in half. Cover the spools with extra paper to make them “pretty”.
- Glue stick/glue
- Scotch tape



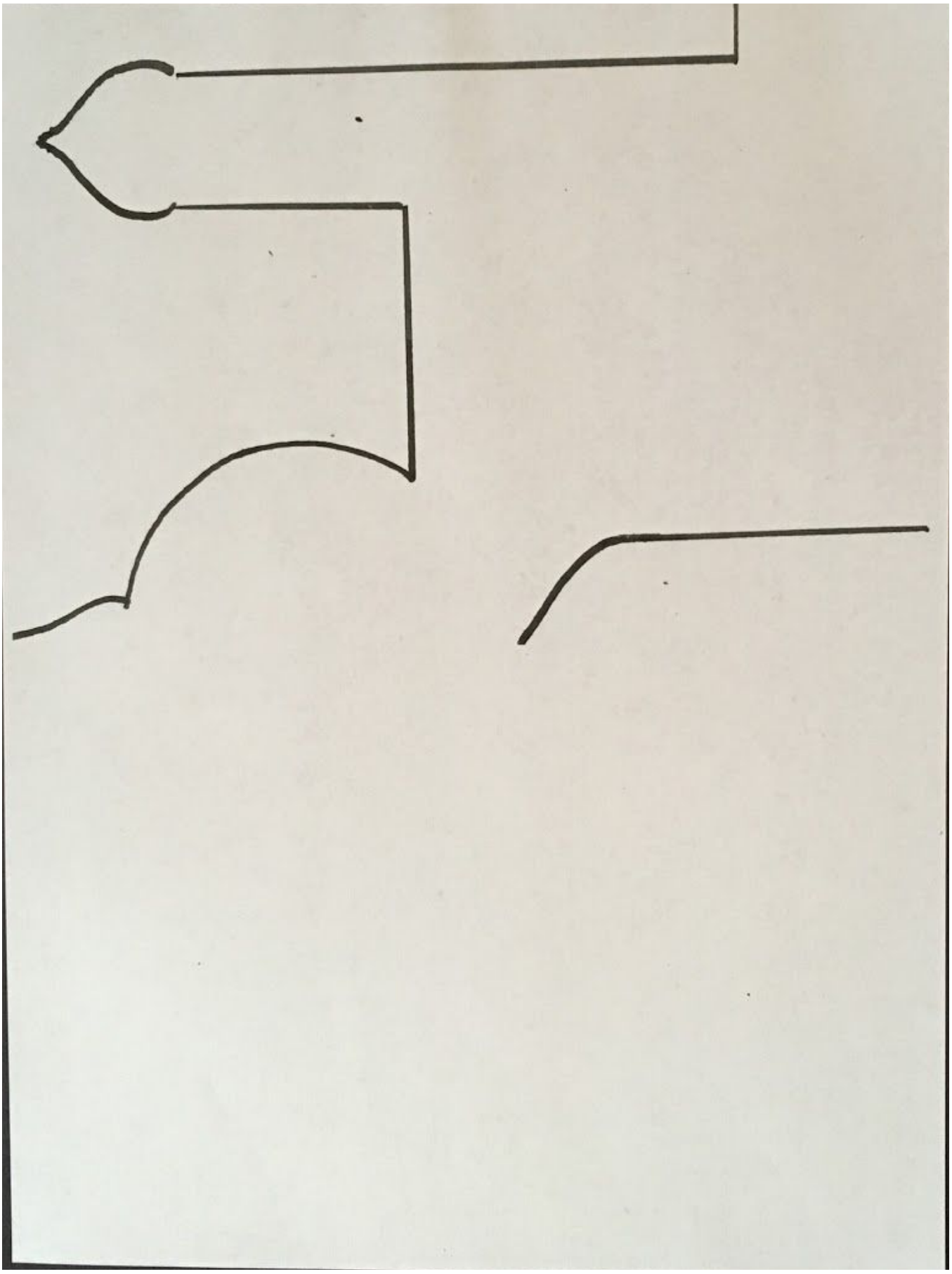
DIRECTIONS (using the template provided)

1. Use the template provided on page 5. *The template only shows half the structure.
2. Fold the template down the middle and cut around the outline. Refer to the image above.
3. Take a new sheet of white paper. Fold it down the middle.
4. Trace the template outline carefully on the folded sheet.
5. Keeping the sheet folded, cut out your traced outline.
6. Open the cut shape. You will now see the full domed architectural outline in symmetry.



DIRECTIONS FOR GENERAL COMPLETION

1. See image above. Draw lines using a ruler if possible, to create a square around the arch (*Iwan)*.

2. Get creative and draw your own delicate designs. *Most designs are floral or geometric. **Maintain symmetry on both sides.**
3. Color your domed architecture. *Preferred colors are shades of blue, yellow, red.
4. Flip the project. Paste down a spool on each side, making sure they are not visible from the front.
5. *Optional*- carefully paste a colored sheet on the back of the spools to create a background for your project (see complete project, page 1)
6. Allow the glued areas to dry (unless using scotch tape).
7. Stand your beautiful Domed building to be admired (as a palace, a sacred place, a house etc.)

TEMPLATE ON NEXT PAGE FOR STUDENT USE