

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
November 2, 2005

Classwork  
History -

### Islamic Calligraphy:

Islam forbids drawing pictures of Allah or of Mohammed. The Koran instructs Muslims not to worship anything other than God. Muslims worry that with pictures of God and Mohammed, Muslims would worship the pictures instead of the real thing.

For that reasons, Muslims developed beautiful **calligraphy**. Calligraphy is the art of writing. Calligraphy takes simple letters and turns them into beautiful designs. Muslims artists add geometric shapes (lines, circles, squares, triangles) to their art to make it more beautiful.

Here are several examples of Muslim art.



**Follow the instructions on the back to create your own piece of Muslim calligraphy!**

**Step #1:** Muslims chose sentences from the Koran to turn into calligraphy because these sentences were *most* important to them. Here at GCP, many words and ideas are important to us. Pick one of our constants, and circle it.

No Shortcuts, No Excuses

All of us WILL learn.

Ask and answer questions.

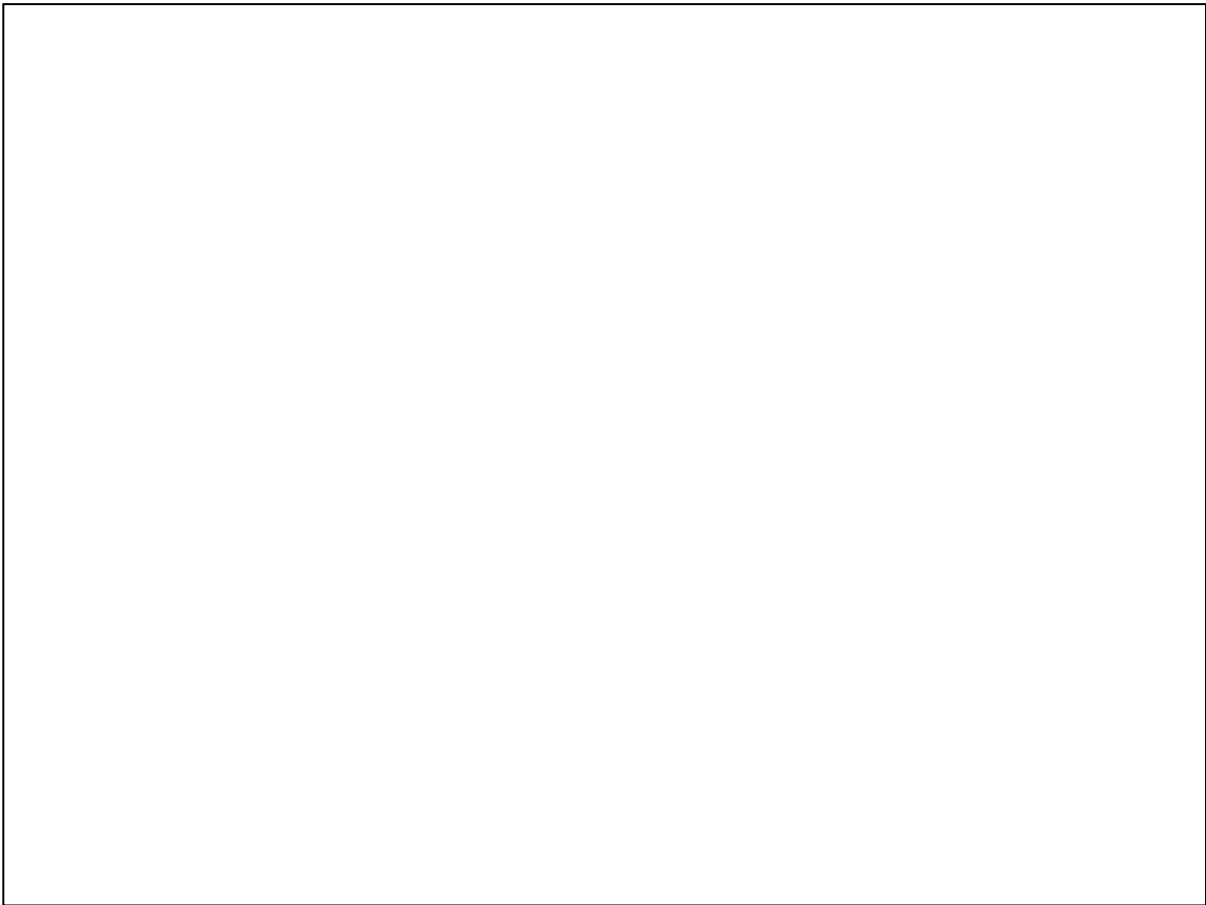
Assign yourself.

Get and give help.

The strength of the pride is the lion.

The strength of the lion is the pride.

**Step #2:** Write out the words you circled in the box below. Have fun playing with the shapes of the letters. Can some be bigger and some smaller? Can some have interesting curves to them? Can some look like geometric shapes?



**Step #3:** Now add geometric shapes *around* the outside of your words. Use shapes like triangles, squares, octagons, hexagons, and circles. Look at the front of this page for some examples.

**Step #4:** Add colors to your calligraphy. Be neat, and turn it into a work of art.