**Sand Mandala**

**A Tantric Buddhist ritual**.

Materials: Coloured sand, geometrical symbol, tools for distribution of sand, laptop for Buddhist chant, paint brush for deconstruction. These are all available in RE store.

Setup Room with 3 class groups: Each group to have the coloured sand and geometrical symbol.

Once students arrive get them seated with their student workbook. Then:

Inform students of the experience of the mandala- we are not Buddhist, but we can explore this ritual and appreciates its richness in symbolism.

Before students commence, cover:

* **Preparation of the Symbol**
* **Construction of Mandala - Ensure that you highlight construction happens from the inside- out.**
* **The colours of the Mandala carry particular symbolism - what are they?**
* **The important process is the time and reflection taken during construction not necessarily the end result**
* **Deconstruction.**
* **Ensure that you insist on an aura of quietness and calmness while students work**
* **Encourage students to distribute sand lightly and evenly over the pattern. The best groups generally would use only a 1-2 cups of sand over the whole pattern**

**Students commence the construction.**

While this is happening ensure all students are sitting around the pattern and there is a system of rotation that gives all members a chance to be part of the construction.

While students are working on the Mandala have your laptop plugged in, access YouTube for some Buddhist chants/ meditation music. Total construction takes about 45-50min.

**Following Construction:**

Bring the groups together and explain the process of deconstructing the Mandala. There are clips on YouTube that I used that explain the importance of deconstruction. The three groups go to a different space around the school where the sand is poured into a “running stream”. Use the buckets for the deconstructed mandala. Allow the final 10 minutes of the double for this!