



# Make a Paper Floor Cloth

**Grade Level:** K-8

**Background:**

See figure A and B for historical context

**Materials Needed:**

Coloring sheets, blank sheet, your medium of choice.

**Suggested Materials:**

Ruler for straight lines

**Activity:**

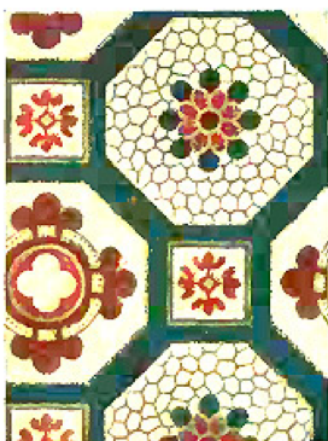
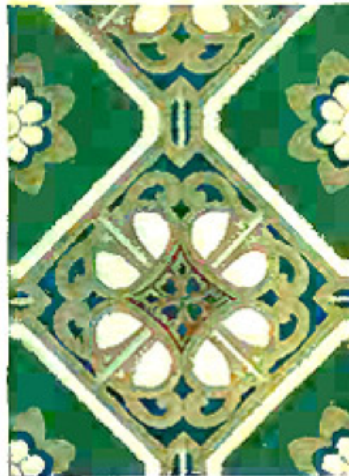
After reading about the floor cloths and their design, try your hand at making your own out of paper! Print the sheets below and color in, or use a ruler and design your own using the blank sheet!

# Figure A: Example of Floor Cloths



Floor Cloths were used in high traffic areas of the house to protect the floors and provide decoration. They were placed in entry ways and beneath water jugs.

They were made of canvas which had been painted and lacquered. The floor cloths, or floor mats, often used checkerboard patterns with vibrant colors.



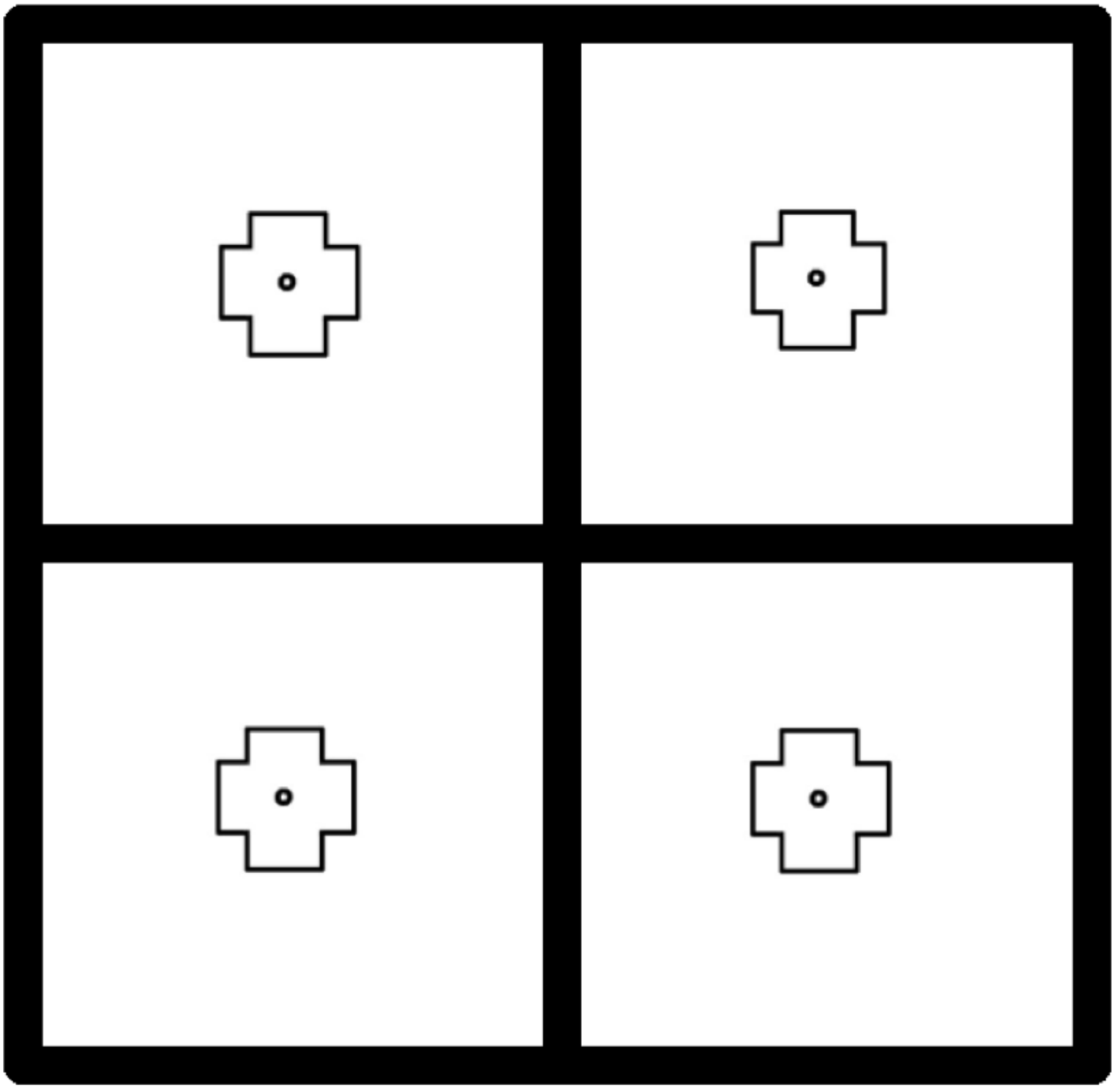
These mats are simple to make and can be made by anyone. Makers can use patterns and repeating images to make these mats.

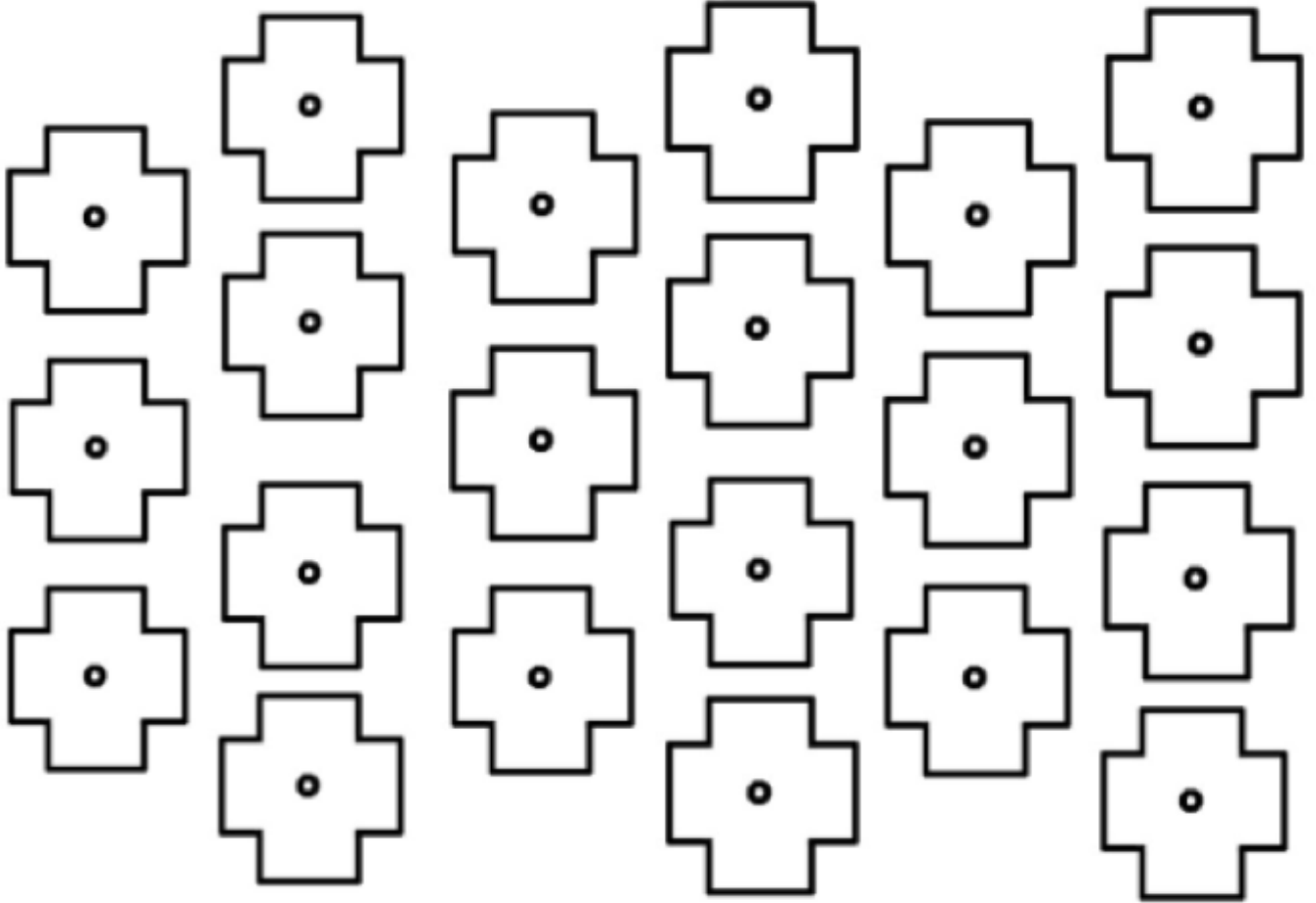
## **Figure B: Floor Cloth at the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace**



**Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library is lucky enough to have a beautiful floor cloth by the front door. This floor cloth is not original to the collection, nor is the carpet on the staircase. This reproduction floor cloth was designed by a volunteer who donated it in 1982. The cloth and the carpet on the stairs was designed to match the wall paper paneling along the stair case, as well as the rugs throughout the main floor of the house.**

**This floor cloth is a common style and pattern used in the 1800's.**





# Blank Floor Cloth Design

