



Honey bees live in communities called hives.

Like humans, they are social animals. This means they live, raise young, and work together. At the heart of every hive is a Queen bee.

Hives are made up of six-sided shapes – hexagons—made from beeswax, which the bees make.

The hexagons fit tightly together, side by side. So, by using the hexagon shape, bees make very efficient use of space while using as little wax as possible. The combination of hexagon shapes is called a honeycomb.

Imagine that your Garden Club Group (or your family and friends) are part of a bee hive. Individuals are represented by hexagon shapes that fit together.

This creative activity will give you ideas to for making 3 **different hexagons**. The hexagons represent you and plants that are important to you.

Step 1)

Work on 3 hexagon shapes which you'll find on the sheets in this pack. The sheets will tell you how to fill in each hexagon.

Step 2)

Once you have made your own three hexagons, put them together with ALL of the hexagons from everyone in your 'hive'. Display them together on a single surface –like a wall, floor or table top. This will be your 'hive' - the community that you all belong to!

To do this simply use sellotape or a glue stick to attach each hexagon to a big piece of paper or card.

Step 3)

Take a look at your community hive. Everyone's hexagons will be different, but they all come together as a whole. What do you notice about how all of the pieces fit together? Can you spot yours?

Did you know?
It takes two million flowers to produce one pound (500g) of honey. For one bee to do this, it would have to fly about 90,000 miles. That's three times around the world.

How Europeans brought honey bees to America

There are about 20,000 species of bees in the world.

When Europeans first began to settle in North America, there were about 4,000 bee species there.



But, the native species did not produce honey in the same quantity that honey bees do.

Honey bees are not native to North America. They had to be imported from Europe in the 17th century.

Did you know?
When they get back to the hive, bees do a “waggle dance” to tell other bees where to find nectar. The dance gives directions based on the position of the sun.

Find out more online here:

<https://bit.ly/AmericanBees>

Bee in the know!

- A colony of bees is around 20,000 to 60,000 bees with just one queen.
- Queen bees live up to five years.
- Worker bees, who make up most of the colony, live about 6 weeks.
- Only the queen lays eggs. In Summer, she will lay up to 2,500 eggs a day.

Did you know?
A bee's wings beat 11,400 times every minute. When they're looking for nectar, a bee can travel up to six miles in one day.

You can see other interesting bee facts here:

<https://bit.ly/DiscoverBees>

<https://bit.ly/LearnHoneyBee>

<https://bit.ly/FactsAboutBees>



Why are we talking about American bees? The artist who put together this activity is Melinda Schwakhofer. She has Muscogee Native American and Austrian-American ancestry.

BORDER CROSSINGS

ORIGINS

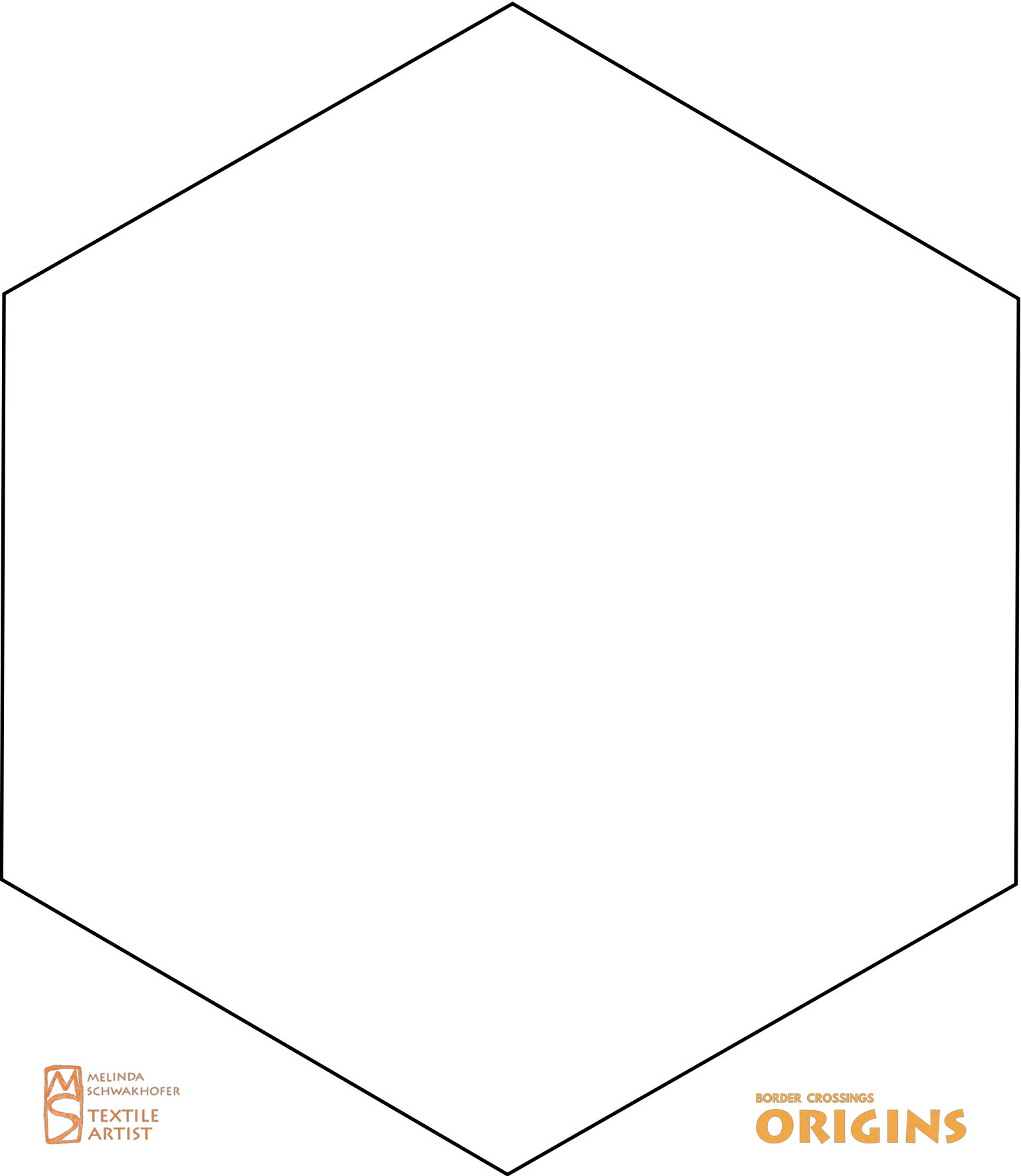


Who I Am

Trace around your hand. Write words or draw pictures to tell about:

- ◆ Your cultural heritage
- ◆ Your interests, hobbies, favourite things

Every one in the family can do this!

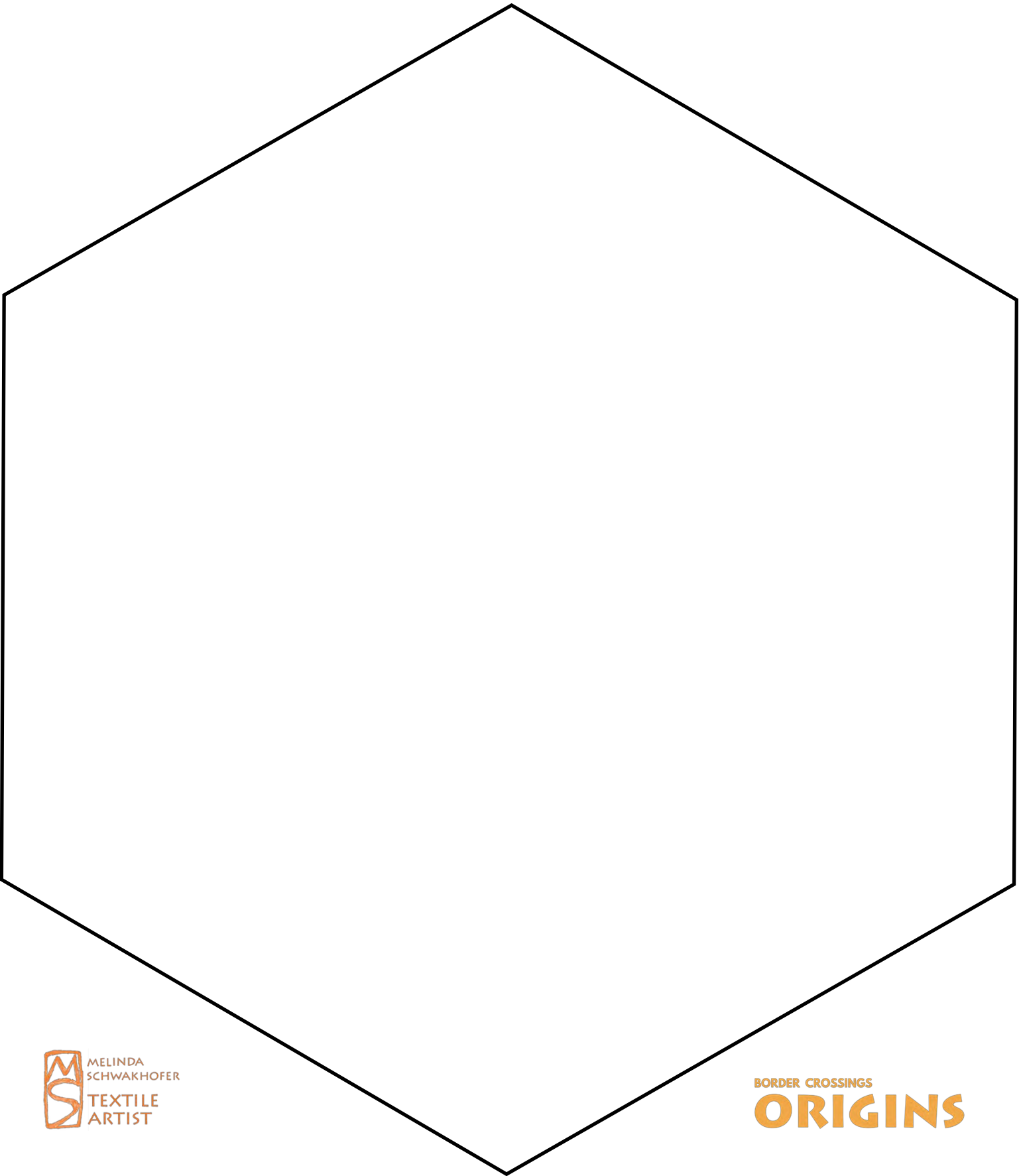




Connect with the Plant World

In the hexagon, draw a plant you feel connected to. For example:

- ♦ A plant you will be growing
- ♦ A plant or vegetable that you like to eat
- ♦ A plant that grows where you sometimes sit and watch nature

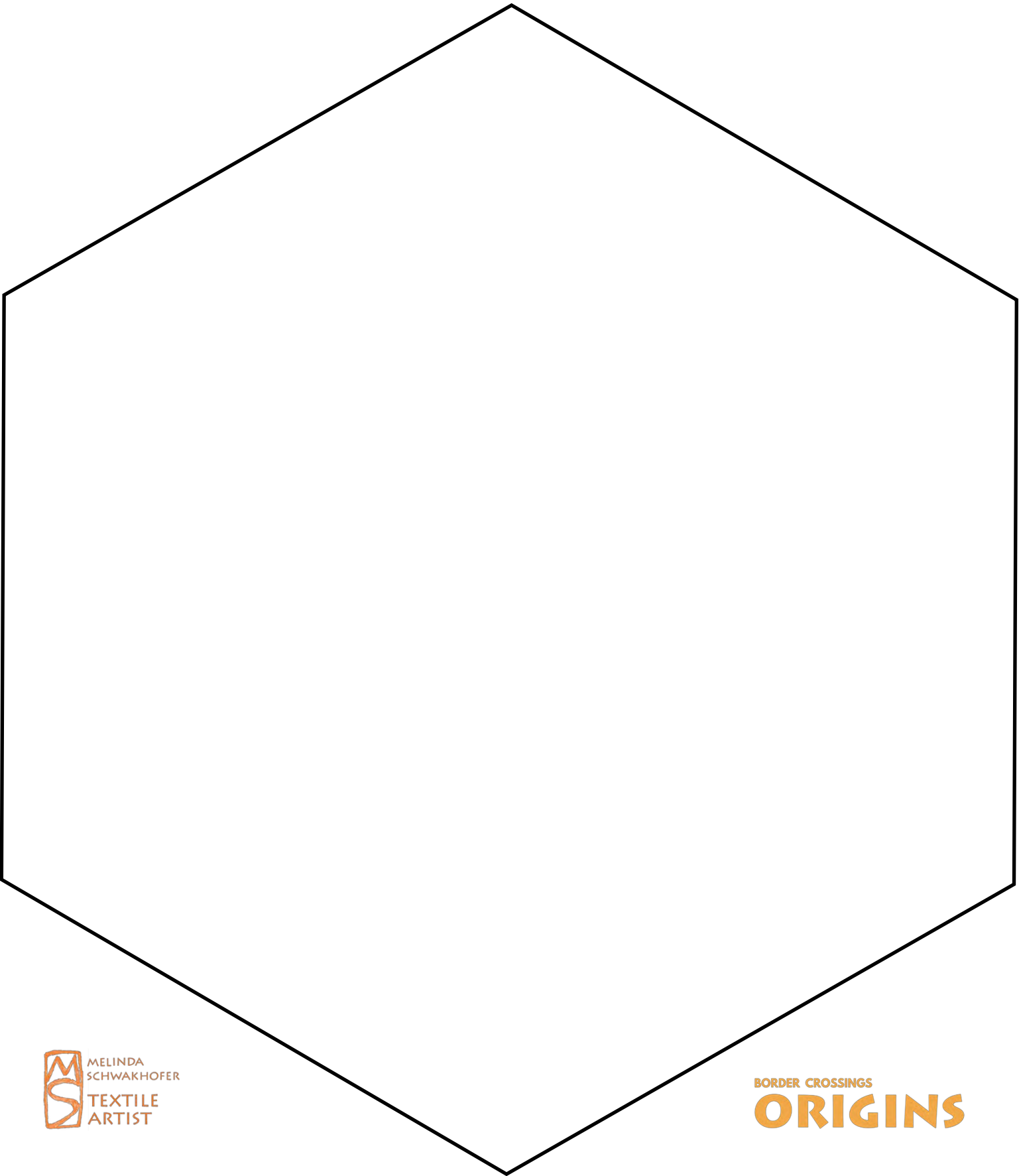




Designs from Nature *(see some examples on the next page)*

Find some leaves or flowers and make a design by

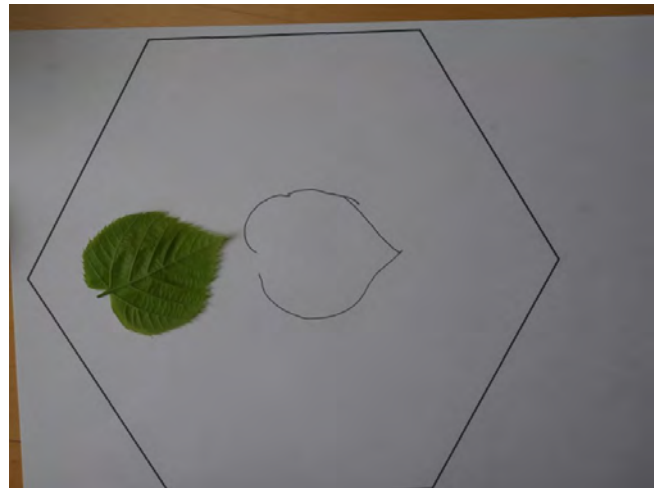
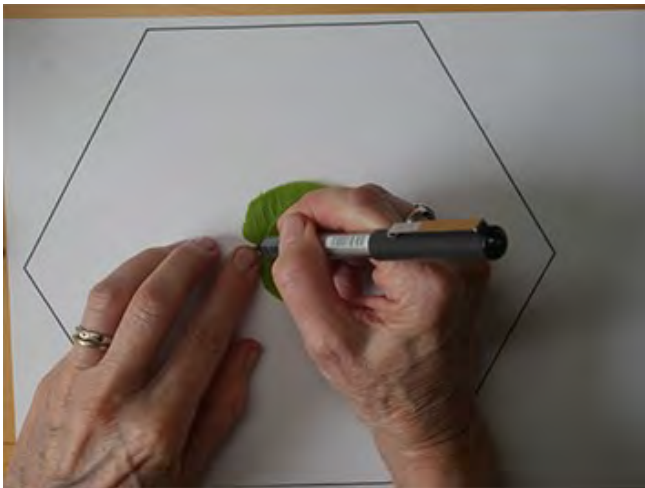
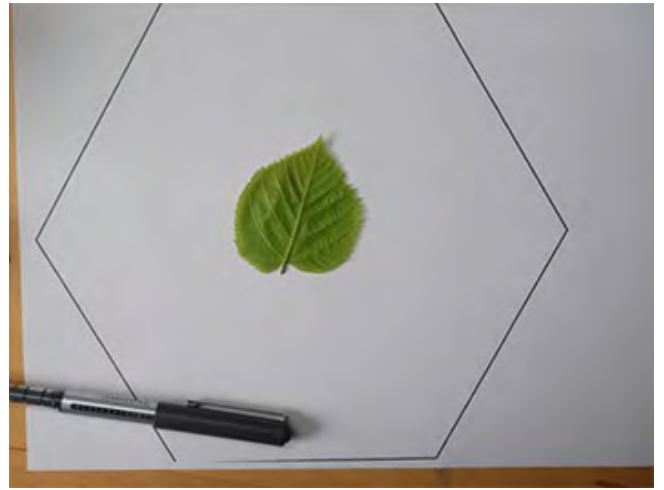
- ◆ Rubbing
- ◆ Tracing
- ◆ Shadow Drawing



Some examples of designs from Nature

TRACING

- ◆ First, gather some leaves.
- ◆ Place a leaf inside the hexagon.
- ◆ Trace around the leaf with a pen or felt tip. Repeat and overlap the leaf shapes



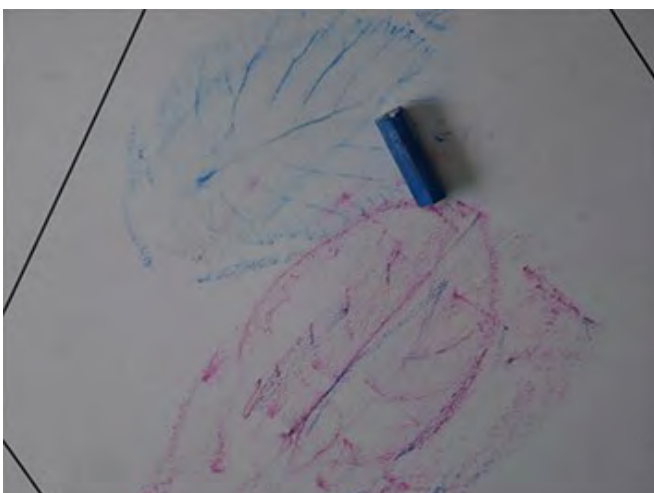
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Some examples of designs from Nature

RUBBING

- ◆ Leaves with strong veins work best
- ◆ Place the leaf vein side up on the table
- ◆ Put the hexagon shape over it
- ◆ Rub on the paper with the long side of a pastel or crayon
- ◆ Layer different leaves and combine colours



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Some examples of designs from Nature

SHADOW DRAWING

- ◆ Use a light or a torch or a phone torch to cast a shadow onto the paper.
- ◆ Trace around the leaf's shadow with a pen or felt tip.

