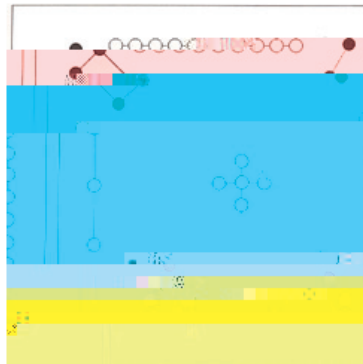# Ma h Magic!

Activity 3 – Fascinating Magic Squares

Magic Squares are believed to have originated in China thousands of years ago. The oldest known magic square, called Lo-Shu, appeared on the back of a divine turtle in a Chinese river over 4,000 years ago. Magic squares have fascinated scientists, astrologers and mathematicians for centuries. In Medieval times people believed that magic squares possessed mystical powers and had the ability to ward off the deadly plague. Magic squares contain a variety of mathematical patterns, both visual and numerical, some of which you will discover in this weekend project.

Below is a picture of the original Lo-Shu magic square. In the diagram, black circles represent even numbers and white circles represent odd numbers. (The even numbers in the Chinese culture represented the Yin or the female principle of the Universe, while the odd numbers represented the Yang or the male principle of the Universe).

Converting the Chinese symbols, used in the Lo-Shu, into our modern number system, we get the following magic square:

4	9	2
3	5	7
8	1	6

Can o belie e THIS is ma h?

Ma h Magic!

Can o belie e THIS is ma h?

Ma h Magic!

Activity 3 - Fascinating Magic Squares -

Your Task:

Can o belie e THIS is ma h?

Ma h Magic!

Activity 3 - Fascinating Magic Squares - ⌀

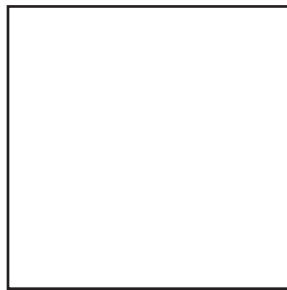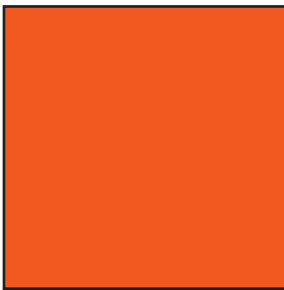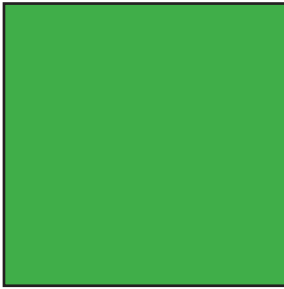|	12	16	
6		11	
		10	19

The remaining numbers to be placed into the square are:

What is the *magic constant* of this magic square?

Can o belie e THIS is ma h?

Ma h Magic!

Activity 3 - Fascinating Magic Squares - ᴅ

Can o belie e THIS is ma h?