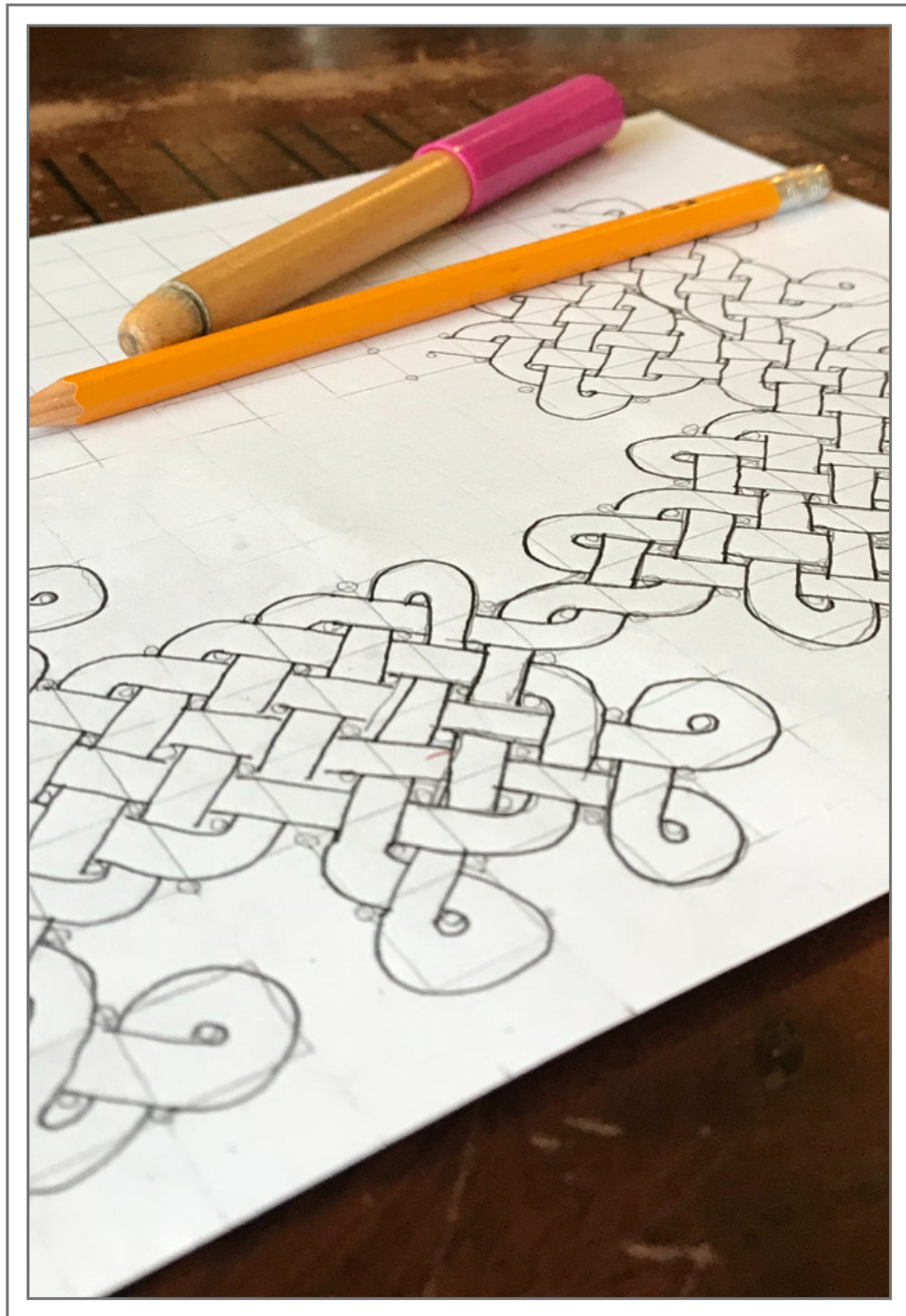


## LINDA CHIDO ART Learn

### Celtic Art - A History & A Few Recommendations



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I brought Celtic Art to my homeschool curriculum in two different time periods – first during our studies of Norse Mythology (4th grade/age 10) and the second time while studying the Middle Ages (6th grade/age 12). My oldest daughter who is graduated from High School, still draws Celtic knots even after all these years!

I highly recommend that if you are bringing Celtic Art to your medieval studies that you spend some time looking at the *Book of Kells*, especially during the Illuminated Manuscript Page Project. The *Book of Kells* was created sometime between the 6th and 8th century by monks from a Columba monastery in either Ireland, Scotland, or England. The *Book of Kells* is an illuminated manuscript Gospel book in Latin and is considered a masterwork of Western calligraphy and represents the pinnacle of Insular art (art from Great Britain and Ireland).

The *Book of Kells* is part of the collection of the Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.  
<https://www.tcd.ie/library/research-collections/book-of-kells.php>

## **Celtic Art - A History**

Celtic Art was practiced by the people of Ireland and parts of Britain, called Celts, from the Roman withdrawal from Britain in the 5th century, to the establishment of Romanesque art in the 12th century.

Some themes in Celtic Art include flowing forms, gods and warriors, animals (real and imagined), complex vegetal designs, and interlocking lines called knots. Celtic Art appeared in various media from the colossal to the adornment of mundane everyday objects.

The Celts left very few written records and so we have no commentaries on the artists who designed and created this art nor the art itself. Though for the Celts, this art could be applied to anything and there was no distinction between “high art” and craftwork. Historians of Celtic Art say it is difficult and complex art to label. Celtic art is more a series of arts rather than a single art form.

## Celtic Knot

The interlocking knot pattern originated in Northern Italy and the southern part of Gaul in the 3rd and 4th centuries and migrated to Ireland in the 7th century where in the hands of Celtic artists, developed a distinct style.

Spirals, step patterns, and key patterns are dominant motifs in Celtic Art before the Christian influence on the Celts. The intricate interwoven cords are called plaits. The symbolism of the knots represent the continuous and entrancing connectedness of everything for eternity. The knot as a symbol is used for protection, family, motherhood, sisterhood, love, power, connection to a higher power, connection to another person, or connection to the self. Each individual design is believed to have held special significance, though most of their meanings have been lost to the ages.

There are six basic Celtic knot patterns or designs:

Trinity or Triquetra

Spiral

Sailor's Knot

Dara Knot

Celtic Cross

Solomon's Knot

Celtic Love Knot



### Now it's your turn.

1. Visit [www.lindachido.com/learn](http://www.lindachido.com/learn)
2. Watch my free, short tutorial on how to make a Celtic knot.
3. Share and tag me on social media:
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