

## Shapes in the Sand

Required Annotations		Student-Created Annotations		Summary / Questions / Reflection	
----------------------	--	-----------------------------	--	----------------------------------	--

Comprehension	im- = not; fac = make, do; ob = in front of, against	Comments
	<p>Ask Andres Amador to name the biggest challenge he faces as an artist and his answer is simple: dogs.</p>	
obliterated	<p>“Dogs are the most destructive, especially dogs chasing balls,” he says. “Once I was working and I looked up to see a wall of dog walkers coming toward me. They <b>obliterated</b> my artwork.</p>	
canvas	<p>It’s an unusual challenge for an artist, but Amador works on an unusual <b>canvas</b>: the coastline near his home in San Francisco, California. On these sandy shores he creates enormous designs, many of which feature geometric patterns. In fact, it was the history of geometry that inspired Amador to start making his beach murals in 2004.</p>	
	<p>“Our ancestors worked without modern technology,” he says. “They created designs using simple but powerful geometric techniques based on the relationships between circles. All of the great architectural works of humanity—the pyramids, cathedrals, and castles—were built using those simple techniques.”</p>	
facilitate	<p>Like ancient mathematicians, Amador doesn’t rely on modern tools. He just uses a rake and a rope to draw patterns in the sand. Raking exposes the wetter sand beneath the surface, creating a difference in color. And the rope serves as a compass—like the ones you use to draw a circle in math class—to <b>facilitate</b> making perfectly curved lines.</p>	
staggeringly	<p>Amador’s finished murals are <b>staggeringly</b> large. Some cover areas of sand as big as one-and-a-half football fields. Such huge dimensions make it difficult for beachgoers to recognize the lines at their feet as planned patterns—and can result in unplanned footprints across his work!</p>	
impermanent	<p>By their nature, Amador’s sand paintings don’t last forever. He works quickly to finish before the tide comes in. Sometimes he completes a design in just two hours. But eventually the waves wash it away. For some artists this would be frustrating, but Amador values the <b>impermanent</b> quality of his creations.</p>	
	<p>“In the end, our lives are about the experiences we’ve had, not the things we have held on to,” he says. “What I appreciate is the act of being at the beach, doing the art.”</p>	

### Summary

Write a summary of the article on the back of the page.