Learn step-by-step how to draw a pattern from ancient Greece called a Meander, and use it as a repeatable building block to create a unique doodle!

**Supplies**
Pencil, Graph Paper*

**What is a Meander?**
A meander is a decorative border made from one continuous line. It might remind you of a wandering river, or a maze, but it’s a common design used in Greek and Roman art. In ancient Greece they appear on many buildings and lots of pottery.

The meander is one of the most important symbols in ancient Greece. You can find it on many ancient Greek temples, and it might have symbolized infinity and unity. Infinity because it’s a pattern you can repeat indefinitely, and unity because the dark and light shapes interlock perfectly.
ART SPOT:
How to Draw Meanders
All Ages
10 mins - ∞

Getting Started

1. In the middle of your graph paper, start by drawing a rectangle 7 squares tall and 1 square wide. All of our rectangles will be one square wide.
2. Starting at the top of your rectangle, draw another one 7 squares long moving right from our previous line. Make sure it overlaps like in the example below.
3. Draw another rectangle, this time 5 squares long. Draw down from where the previous rectangle ended.
4. Draw a rectangle 3 squares long, this time moving left from our previous line.
5. Then one going up 3 squares tall.
6. One more 3 squares long moving to the left.
7. Draw another rectangle, this time 5 squares tall. Draw down from where the previous rectangle ended.
8. Finally, one last rectangle 7 squares long, moving right.
9. Color it in and repeat until you can draw them from memory!

Meanders can be tricky to learn at first, but after a little practice you will be able to draw and repeat them on and on into infinity with ease!

Drawing Ideas

- Get creative! Use different materials like markers, paint, or crayons. Use different colors, rotate your paper as you draw to make them go in different directions. Make some big, some small, some with thick outlines, some with dark outlines, try as many different combinations as possible!
- Try to completely cover your paper with one meander pattern without lifting your pencil.
- Use meanders as a border for your notes or to-do lists.
- Have a black Sharpie marker and a disposable cup? Draw rows of meander patterns on your cup to decorate it like an ancient Greek vessel.

* If you don’t have graph paper, you can make your own with a pencil and ruler. Just draw lightly and make sure your lines are spaced equally.