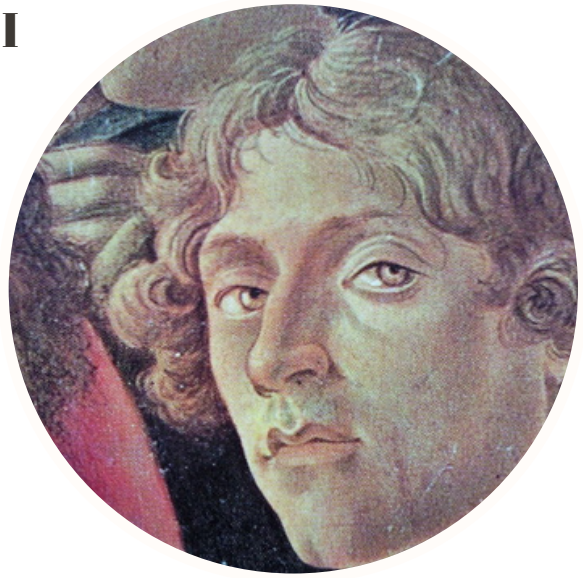
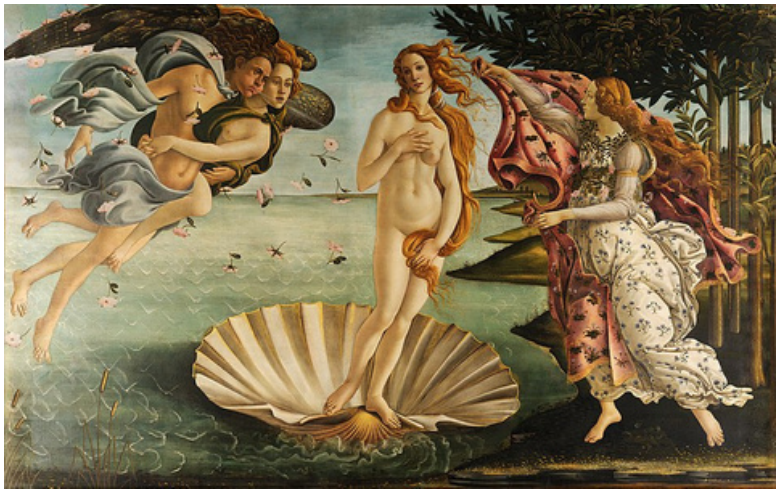
INSPIRED BY: SANDRO BOTTICELLI



Self-portrait
from the 'Adoration of the Magi' 1475

Renaissance painter Sandro Botticelli 1445-1510 was an influential Italian artist and draughtsman of the Florentine school, with a passion for religious and mystic paintings. One of his most well known paintings is the 'Birth of Venus'.



'Birth of Venus' Circa 1484 More information

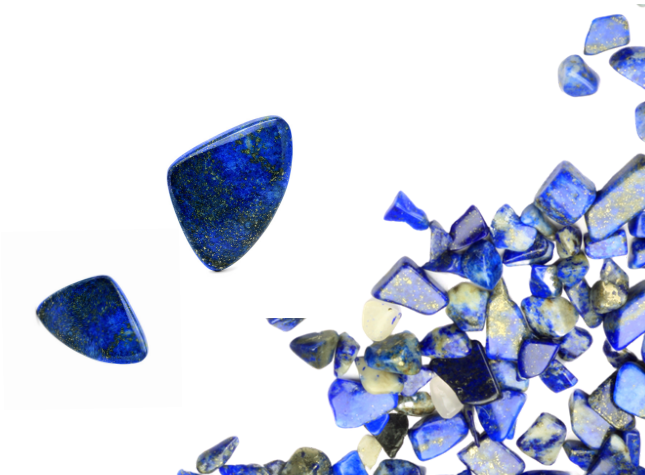
He also painted the magnificent 'Mystic Nativity' an oil painting depicting the nativity set against a back drop of angels and imps. The painting can be viewed in the National Gallery, and was hidden for nearly 300 years and only discovered by a young art lover by chance. Botticelli has packed a lot of characters and details into the painting, and on first look it shows what could be described as the perfect Christmas scene. However, art historians say that Botticelli was a fervent believer that the end was nigh and his painting is in fact referencing the end of the world.



'Mystic Nativity' 1500

- Have a closer look at the larger print of the painting on the next page. Now you know a little about its history do you think the painting depicts a peaceful or chaotic scene?

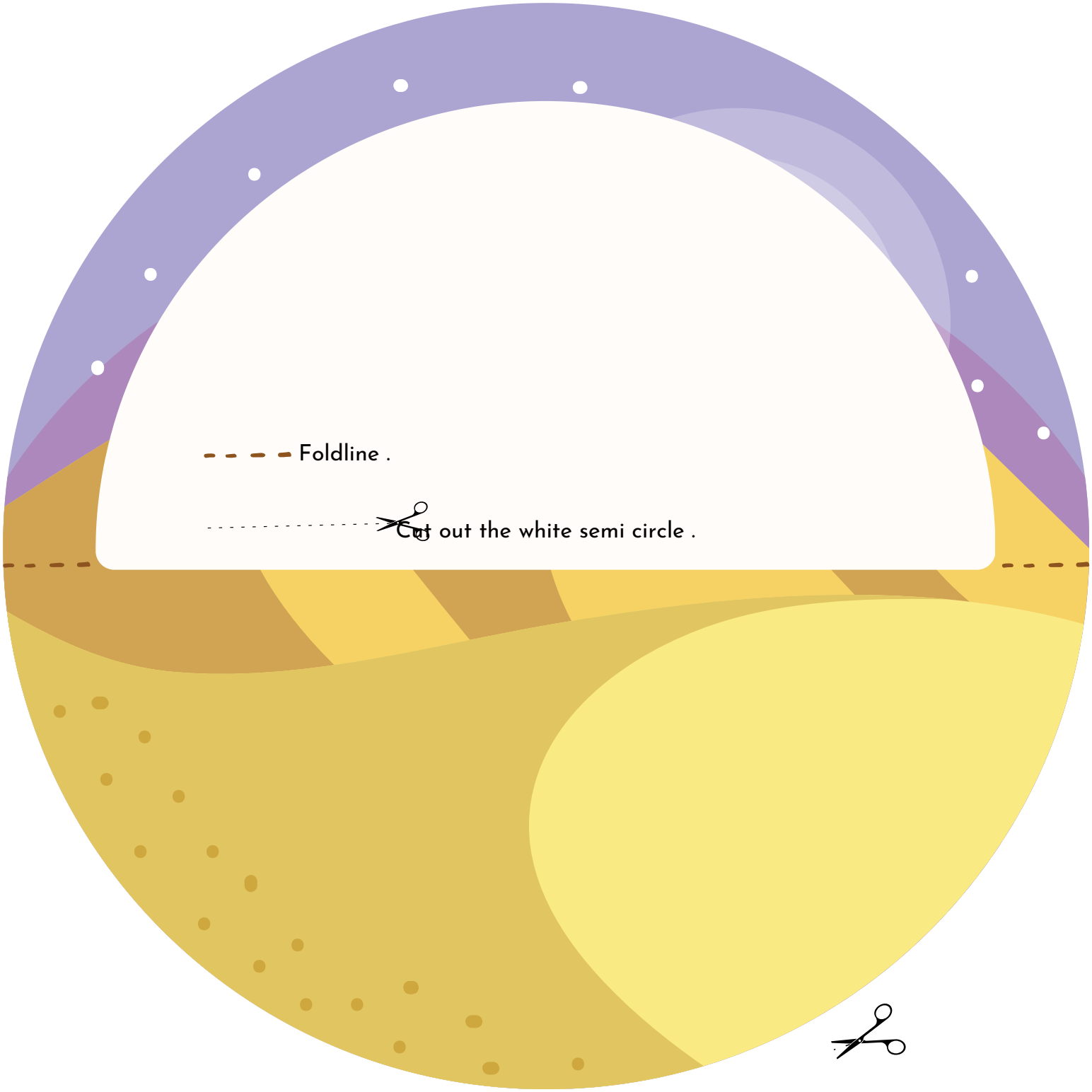
The colours that Botticelli chose were made from pigments created from minerals and plants. The blue used to depict the Virgin Mary was called Marian blue and made from crushing the valuable gemstone Lapis Lazuli. Blue symbolises purity and power, at the time as the pigment was as expensive as gold, artists in the renaissance period only ever used it to depict the Virgin Mary.





'Mystic Nativity' 1500





3 D Nativity Scene

- Print onto strong white card and cut out all the template pieces.
- Fold the circle in half so that the background stands up and the desert floor is flat.
- Fold the bottoms of the nativity characters and scenery pieces and stick glue them to the scenery.











