What is a Mandala?

Mandalas, from the Sanskrit meaning circle, are among the most widespread of all the world's sacred symbols. They occur most frequently in Hindu and Buddhist traditions but are also found in the art of the Navajo and the ancient Celts. In Eastern tradition, the mandala is considered a consecrated space, a mystical diagram to construct the dwelling place of a deity.

Mandalas first became widely known in the West through the work of 20th-century psychologist C. G. Jung who wrote, “In considering the mandala we are analysing the self.” In mandalas Jung felt we confronted images from the depths of the mind that expressed the soul.

A Navajo sand painting titled *Four Houses of the Sun*

The labyrinth on the floor of Chartres Cathedral

Aerial view of Celtic monastery