String art is all about using straight lines to create curves. You can draw the lines with pens or pencils, or you can stitch them with string, hence the name string art.

Our first project will be using a standard set of 90° axes to generate a parabola – you can then adapt this to make more beautiful and complicated designs.

1) With a ruler, draw two lines at right-angles to each other, and mark off points on each of these lines at regular intervals as shown. You may find it helpful to number the points.

2) Now draw a line between each pair of points which are labelled with the same number. So the top-most point on the vertical line goes with the left-most point on the horizontal line and so on.

3) You have drawn a parabola! This is also the shape a ball makes as it is thrown through the air. To make a smoother parabola, you can add in more points along each axes. To make a tighter parabola, you can draw your initial two axes at an angle of less than 90°. We are now going to draw an equilateral triangle (each side the same length, and each angle 60°) and draw a parabola between every pair of sides in the same way as before.
4) Why not try axes which make a star shape, meeting at the middle? Or two sets of stars laid on top of each other? Your imagination is the limit to what you can make!