

Topic: The Romans

Phase: KS2

Strand: Collage and Techniques

What should I already know?

- Mosaics are pictures or patterns made of little pieces of stone, glass, gems or tiles of different colours.
- These small pieces that make up the mosaic are called the 'tesserae.'
- Mosaics are considered as a type of collage art and are sometimes also thought of as sculptures.
- Mosaics often showed pictures of everyday Roman life, including religion, animals and gladiators. Some mosaics contained geometric patterns of marine life.
- How to use repeating patterns
- How to use natural materials to create sculpture and how to handle clay.
- Compare and explore work from different time periods.

Vocabulary

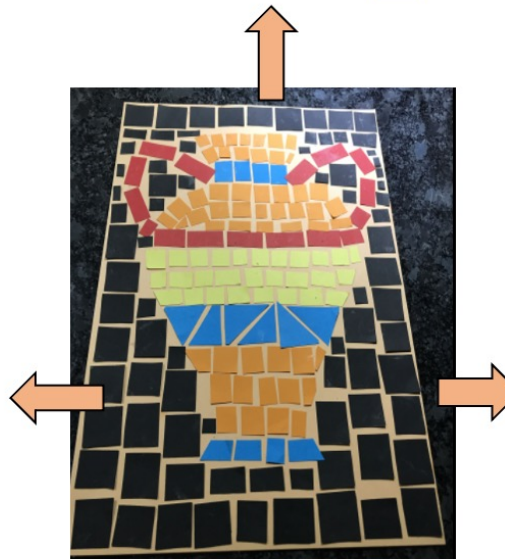
mosaic, sculpture, tesserae, mythology, geometric

Creative Ideas and Examples

Materials: Mosaics can be created using small strips of coloured paper and card, backed onto a card surface with PVC or a gluestick. Alternatively, mosaic sets can be purchased which contain a range of stones, gems and glass for your tesserae. They can be fixed to a hard surface (e.g. tile) using a glue gun.

Preparation: First of all, you need to draw your image onto the paper/ background surface.

Cut your tesserae up into small pieces. The smaller your tesserae, the more detailed you can make your picture/ pattern!

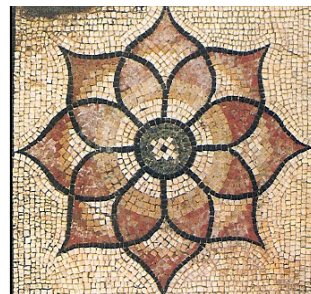




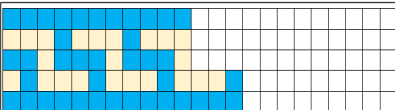
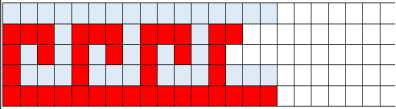
Design: Why not try one of these ideas for the subject of your mosaic:




- A simple geometric pattern;
- One of the four seasons;
- An animal or underwater creature.

At the end of the unit; I will be able to:


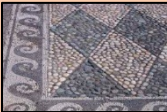



- Develop techniques, including control and use of materials, with creativity, experimentation.
- Create sketch books to record our observations and use them to review and revisit ideas.
- Improve mastery of art and design techniques including painting and sculpture with a range of materials including paint and clay.
- Know about great artists, architects and designers in history.



Styles and Techniques		
Subject Matter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mosaics could be used to show a wide range of subject matter. Historians have learnt a great deal about everyday Roman life from studying mosaics. Mosaics could also be used to show battlefields, important people, mythical characters (e.g. from Ancient Greece) and sometimes violent action scenes (e.g. animal hunts). 	
Materials and Colours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stones, glass, gems, and stone of a variety of colours were used as tesserae. Romans took their mosaics seriously – hard to find colours and materials were imported from other areas of the empire! The pieces were stuck using mortar, a type of cement. -Mosaics come in a variety of colours. Many of the materials do not fade, so they are still bright today. 	
Geometric Patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Many Roman Mosaics used geometric patterns (patterns of the same repeated lines or shapes). Some patterns were simple, whilst some intricate patterns could be made up of tens of thousands of small tesserae. -Other famous patterns are the guilloche and meander. 	 

Significant Artists & Mosaics		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Alexander Mosaic is perhaps the most famous mosaic in the world It shows a battle between Alexander the Great and Darius III of Persia. It is in Pompeii, and has been extremely well-preserved by volcanic ash from the 79AD eruption. It was rediscovered in 1831. 	<p>Alexander Mosaic</p> 	
<p>Fish Mosaic</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a Roman floor mosaic dating to between 350 and 375 AD and depicting fish. Food was a popular subject in mosaics throughout the Roman period. This particular example is found in Taragnola, Rome and contains a wave geometric pattern around the outside. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Seasons Mosaic was found in Cirencester, UK in 1849. It is believed to have been created around 150AD. It shows the four seasons and also scenes from Roman mythology. The image shows Bacchus: the God of wine and fertility. 	<p>Seasons Mosaics</p> 	

Ancient Mosaics Timeline

<p>500BC</p> <p>The Ancient Greeks begin setting floors with small pebbles.</p> 	<p>400BC</p> <p>Coloured pebbles begin being used in Macedonia.</p> 	<p>300BC</p> <p>The Ancient Greeks begin using tesserae in their mosaics.</p> 	<p>79AD</p> <p>The eruption of Vesuvius preserves the Alexander mosaic.</p> 	<p>150AD</p> <p>The Seasons Mosaic is created.</p> 
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