

Roman Mosaics

A mosaic is a piece of art made up of small coloured pieces. These pieces can be coloured glass, stone, paper or other materials. The small pieces combine to make one large picture or pattern.

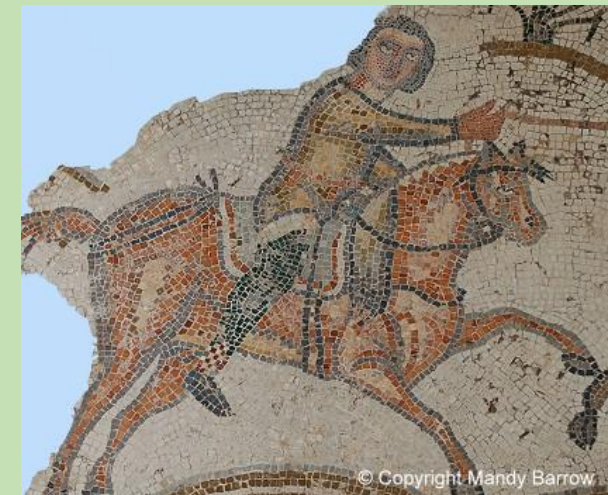
The Romans created mosaic art, some of which we can still see today.

They used mosaics to decorate the floors and walls of their houses.

Many mosaics captured scenes of history and everyday Roman life.

Mosaic floors were a statement of wealth and importance.

Rich Romans decorated the floors of their main rooms with mosaics. These were stuck to the floor with mortar, a type of cement. Each mosaic used thousands of pieces to make a pattern.



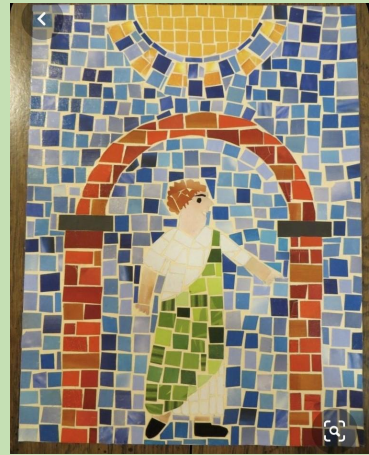
To make a mosaic, you will need:

- a large piece of paper to put your mosaic on
- a pencil
- small squares of different coloured paper or magazine (cut the paper into strips and then into squares) Different types of paper such as tissue paper, shiny paper and sugar paper look good when used together. You might want to have different shades of the same colour to add depth to your mosaic.
- scissors
- glue.



What to do:

1. Choose what your mosaic is going to be of. It could be a pattern or a picture. Look at the examples on the next page if you need inspiration.
2. Lightly draw your design with a pencil. This will help you know where to place the coloured squares.
3. You may want to arrange your pieces of paper into same-coloured groups.
4. Stick the squares in the right place on your design. You might need to cut the squares into different shapes.
5. Some mosaics have a border of black squares, you may wish to add one when you are finished.



If you do not have paper you can draw your mosaic or even paint it.

