



Today we will be learning about Roman Mosaics and using a printing technique to make our own.

A Roman mosaic in Bath, England



Roman mosaics from the Univ. of Penn.'s Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology



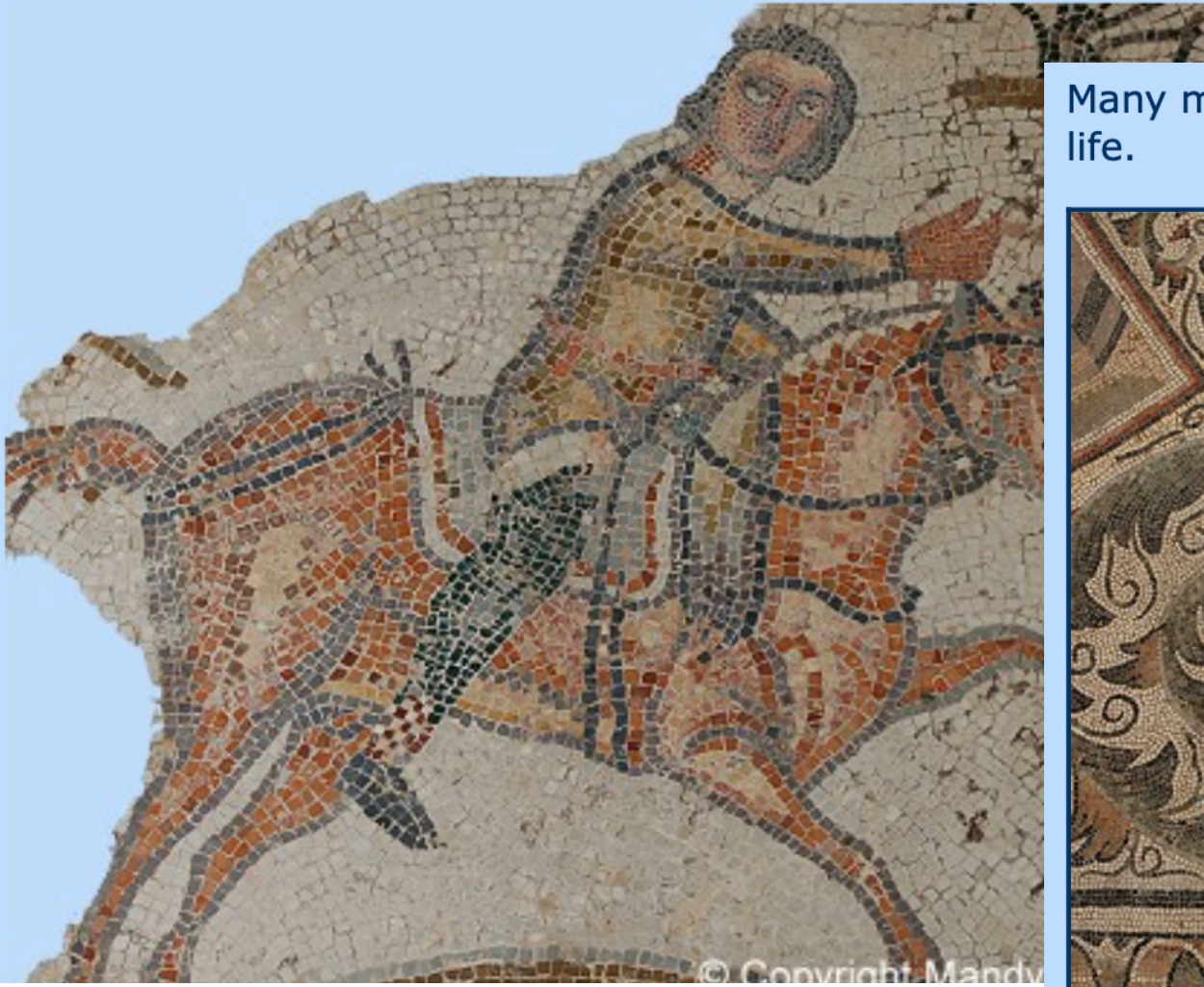
Roman Gladiator mosaic taken at the Kourion Theatre in Cyprus

A Roman mosaic is a mosaic made in the Roman Empire or by Roman artists. The Romans would often have these mosaics in their homes as a sign of wealth and important, and in public buildings and bathhouses. See the fact file below for more information and facts about Roman mosaics.

Roman Mosaics

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The floors of Roman buildings were often richly decorated with mosaics - tiny coloured stones (tesserae).



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.



Investigate Mosaics of Roman Britain

- http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/romans/mosaics_gallery.shtml



Cupid astride dolphin



Sea-horse



Head of Medusa



Venus



Gladiator



Gladiator umpire



Gladiator



A long-tailed bird



Venus



Ganyমে and the Eagle



Detail



Cross detail

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Mosaics of Roman Britain Gallery

By Dr Nigel Pollard
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The floors of Roman buildings were often richly decorated with mosaics, many capturing scenes of history and everyday life. Some mosaics were bought 'off the shelf' as a standard design, while the wealthy villa owners could afford more personalised designs. Some of the finest Roman mosaics in Britain can be seen at Fishbourne Roman Palace and Bignor Roman Villa.

Roman Mosaic Facts

- The Roman Empire was very large and covered many parts of the world. This is why there are examples of well preserved Roman mosaics all over Europe, North Africa and the Middle East.
- Mosaics in the city of Pompeii, an ancient city in southern Italy are some of the best in the world. Pompeii was buried under lava in 79 AD when the volcano Mount Vesuvius erupted. The layers of volcanic ash protected the mosaics and have kept them very well preserved.
- Many Roman mosaics in Pompeii said "Beware of the Dog" in Latin. This was because Romans liked to keep dogs – both as companions and pets – and so this message was placed in the mosaic design.
- Mosaics were also used on ceilings and walls. These were not as common as floor mosaics though. A wall mosaic was common behind fountains and they would usually have a maritime theme.

Roman Mosaic Facts

- Roman mosaics were waterproof and easy to clean. This made mosaics very popular in public buildings and Roman bathhouses. They reflect light very well and were used to brighten up rooms.
- Designers of Roman mosaics were considered craftsmen, not artists. Unlike artists they would not sign their work or take credit for it.
- Mosaics would often feature geometric designs and other images. Common mosaic themes included animals, gladiators in battle, romantic images and scenes from both mythology and astronomy.
- There are many well preserved examples of Roman mosaics in the UK. Some of the best Roman mosaics can be found in The British Museum in London, The Roman Museum has an excellent mosaic collection and is based in Cirencester – which was once an important Roman town.

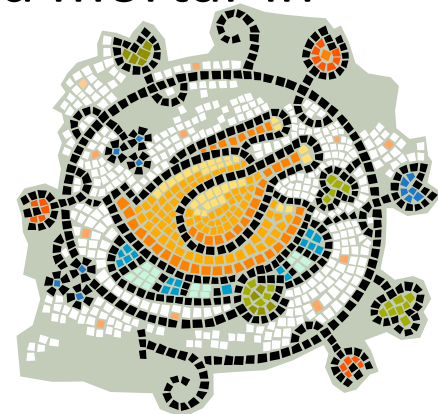
• TASK:

Choose your 4 favourite facts

How did Roman's make Mosaics??

Mosaics, otherwise known as *opus tesellatum*, were made with small black, white and coloured squares typically measuring between 0.5 and 1.5 cm but fine details were often rendered using even smaller pieces as little as 1mm in size.

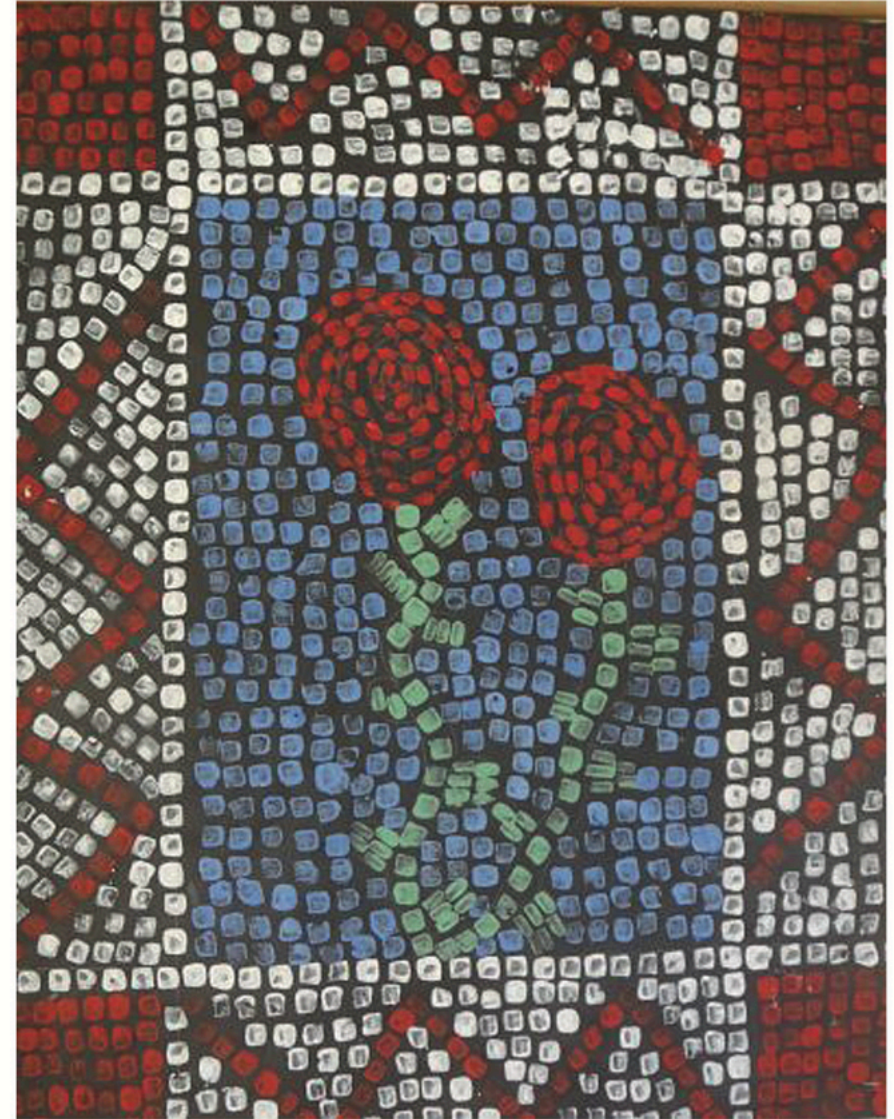
1. These squares (*tesserae* or *tessellae*) were cut from materials such as marble, tile, glass, smalto (glass paste), [pottery](#), stone and even shells.
2. The base was first prepared with fresh mortar and the *tesserae* positioned as close together as possible with any gaps then filled with liquid mortar in a process known as grouting.
3. The whole was then cleaned and polished.



Today we are going to be making a Roman Mosaic using printing

Have a good look at these designs, as you will be creating something similar.

- To look like a Roman mosaic, your mosaic must have a frame



How to make a mosaic - Task 1 - Planning

Why is it important to plan something before you make it?

- **Plan a mosaic design onto the paper.**

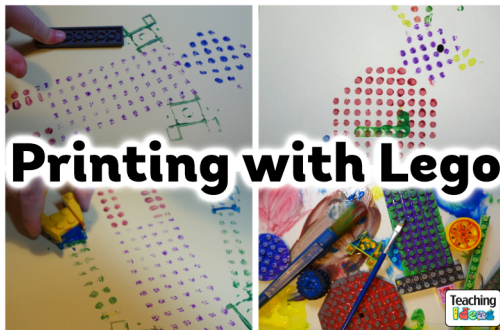
Remember to think about the tiles and shapes you will use later!

- **Choose your tools and get the paint ready**

We won't be using real tiles. Instead, we are going to print (using paint) a shape repetitively to create a pattern to make our mosaic.

The tiles they used were circles or squares. Look around the house, what tools could you use?

You can use anything... cotton buds, bubble wrap, Lego, cut a potato onto the shape you want to use (with the help of an adult), a rubber, sticks, cardboard! Be as creative as you can!!



Task 2 – Transfer your design

When you have finished your sketching design and have your tools and paint ready:

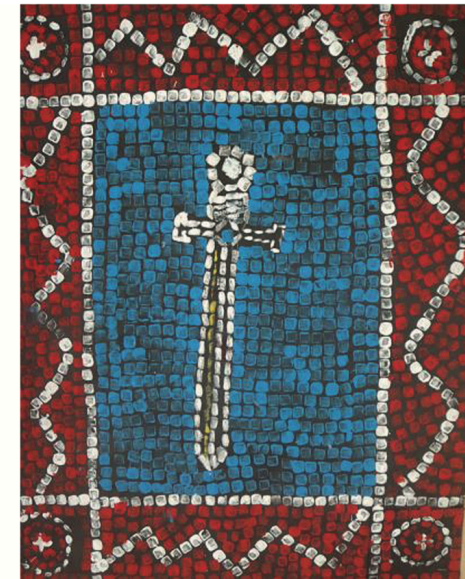
- Using a ruler draw a frame around the paper
- Sketch your design onto the frame using a pencil



Now you are ready to start printing


- Pick your tool and dip in the paint. Making sure you remove any excess paint, press the tool onto your paper, lift it carefully and repeat the process following your design. Make sure you dip it again when needed. To change colour, make sure you clean your tool thoroughly. You can use different tools and shapes to create your mosaic. Leave a small space between your shapes to resemble the mortar.

Let it dry and share it with your teachers!! We can't wait to see your design




If you don't have paint at home, you can use this online tool to make your mosaic.

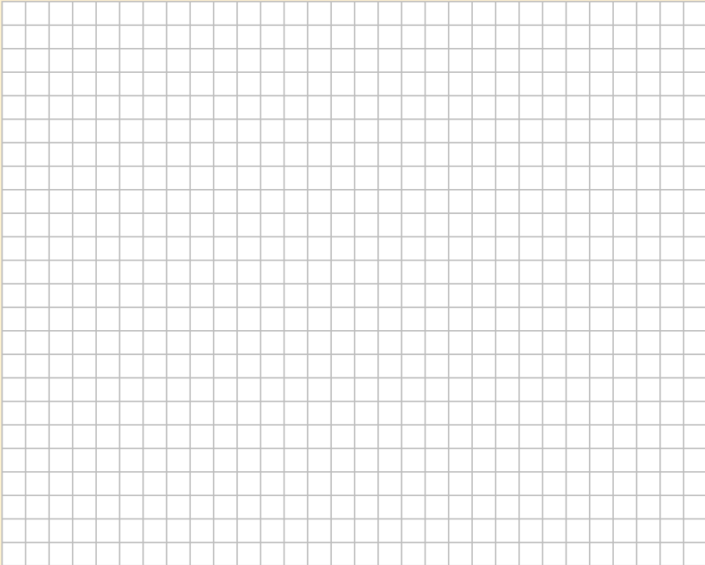
<http://macropolis.org/banderillas/famosaic/easy.htm>
<https://www.theedkins.co.uk/jo/mosaic/mkmosaic.htm>




Make a Roman mosaic online



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**Palette**

