Mosaic Masters

What is a mosaic?

Mosaics are pictures or patterns made using many small pieces of coloured stone or glass called tesserae. Other materials can also be used including paper, foil, pebbles or recycled materials. Mosaics are used to decorate floors, walls, ceilings and objects.

The history of mosaic

Mosaics have been used since c3000 BC and are still used today.



Columns decorated with clay cone mosaics, c3000 BC



Mosaic at Tottenham Court Road Underground station in London, 1986

Roman mosaics

Mosaics were a common sight in Roman homes and public buildings across the Roman Empire. They were highly decorative. Popular themes were everyday life, gods, gladiators, nature, animals and geometric patterns.





Roman mosaic borders

Many Roman mosaics have borders made of repeating patterns.



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guilloché pattern

meander pattern

wave pattern



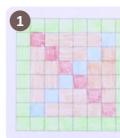
the board, leaving interstices. Leave to dry.

Glossary

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grout	A
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Making a mosaic tile



Create a design on a grid template.







Sort tesserae by colour.



Apply a small amount of glue to a backing board.





Stick tesserae to

Use a glue spreader to to press grout into the interstices.



Leave the grout to dry.

strip that goes around the edge of something.

paste used to fill gaps.

Small gap, crack or space.

pattern or picture made using many small pieces of coloured stone or glass.

regularly repeated arrangement or lesign made from lines, shapes or colours.

Small blocks of stone, tile or glass used to make a mosaic.

