

Spike's Object Activity

#SpikeDinosAdventures

Theme; Romans



Romans; Mosaics

Spike is fascinated by the piece of Roman Mosaic in the Roman archaeology collection. He is wondering what the image the small pieces called tesserae made when it was complete. Mosaics were 'borrowed' by the Romans from the Greeks and Roman artists developed mosaic making to a very high level of skill. Mosaics usually decorated the floors of wealthy Roman villas as they took a long time to make and were expensive.

First the mosaic maker and the owner of the house had to agree on a design. There are many types of design, such as geometric patterns, animals and plants, scenes from mythology such as gods and strange creatures, and scenes from real life such as farming and gladiator fights. Mosaic makers were limited to the colours—they didn't have a whole rainbow of colours. The tesserae had to be made by cutting up the stone. The following materials were usually used in Britain:

Yellow - limestone and sandstone

Red and brown - ironstone

Blue and black - slate

White - chalk



A 'beware of the dog' mosaic in Pompeii

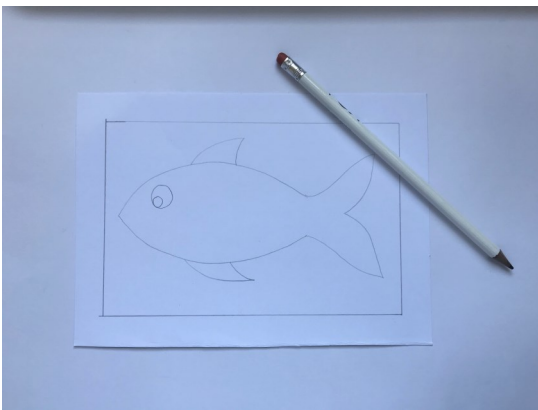
Activity; Make your own mosaic and share a picture with us. See the next page for instructions.

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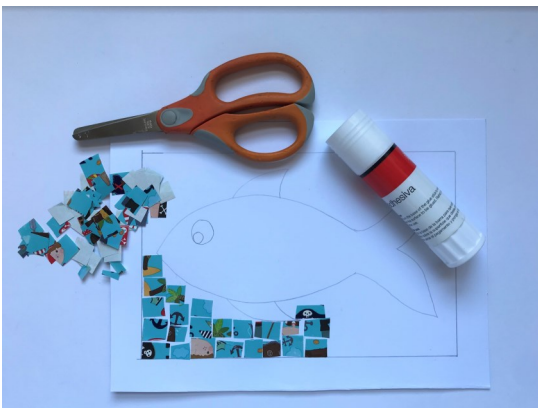
Make your own Roman Mosaic



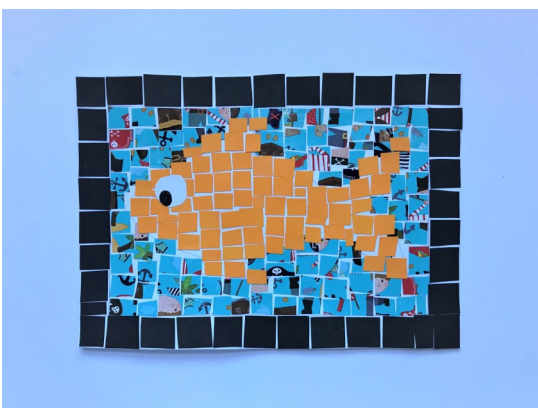
Step 1. Gather your materials. You will need card, scissors, a pencil, glue and coloured paper or wrapping paper.



Step 2. Draw your design on to the card.



Step 3. Cut the coloured card and wrapping paper into small squares. Glue these onto your design. Leaving small gaps in between each one.



Step 4. You have completed your mosaic. Don't forget to share what you have created with us **#SpikeDinosAdventures**