

Make your own Roman Mosaic

Become a master craftsman and design and make your own Roman mosaic.

The Romans built mosaics for the floors, walls and ceilings in their houses. They would have been very expensive, so not everyone would have had them. They were made by experienced craftspeople.



1 Exeter [mosaic excavation in Catherine Street](#)

Mosaics were pictures and patterns made from small square pieces of tile, pottery and stone. These were called tesserae. They sometimes used pebbles too.

These photographs show the biggest piece of mosaic that was found by archaeologists, in Exeter. It would have been found in the corridor of a house, on what is now Catherine Street.

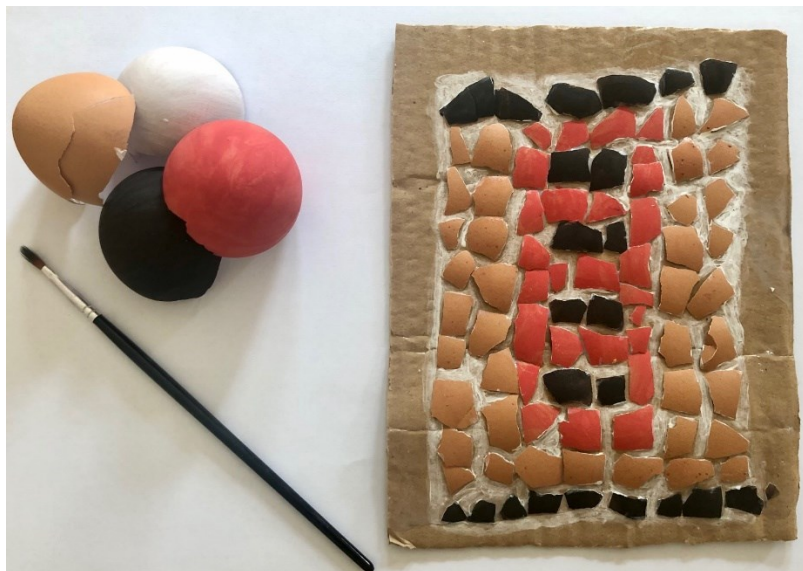
How do you think the Romans chose the design for their mosaics?

They used pattern books like we might have for choosing our wallpaper today!

Why don't you have a go at becoming a Mosaic Master Craftsman by trying some mosaic inspired crafts?

Design and make a mosaic from eggshells

- Wash and dry your eggshells and then paint them with water based paints. We have used traditional Roman colours with red, white, black and the natural (terracotta) colour that eggs are
- When they are dry, break them into small pieces. Roman mosaics used square shaped tiles so you could try to make your pieces as square as you can. Find a piece of card to use as your base and cover it with PVA glue
- Arrange the pieces of coloured eggshell, to make a shape or picture, then leave to dry.



2 An example mosaic made from eggshells, by S Creek

Eggshells seem fragile, but are in fact quite strong.

Are you brave enough to test the strength of your mosaic by standing on it?
Or is your design meant for a wall?

Make a delicious modern mosaic pizza

Why not be creative with your dinner and make a modern style mosaic.

- For the base of your pizza you could use a ready-made pizza base, a flatbread, tortilla wrap, pitta bread, crumpet or even have a go at making your own. There are lots of recipes for [pizza bases online](#)
- Cover your base with some tomato puree or pesto, and get creative with your toppings. You could use sweetcorn, cubed peppers, olives, cubed ham, mushroom slices, sliced or grated cheese. Ask an adult to help you with chopping up the toppings.



*3 A mosaic pizza with sweetcorn, pepper, ham and tomato
by S Creek*

Are some patterns easier to make than others?

Why do you think that might be?

Connect with nature and make a mosaic bird feeder

It is important that we take care of wild birds all year round. Leaving out bird seed and fresh, clean water is a great way to look after garden birds and means that we are more likely to spot them.

This craft is a better one for cooler days, because if it is very hot and sunny outside the peanut butter may melt.

- ▶ Cover one side of your roll with smooth peanut butter. This forms your 'mortar'.
- ▶ Create your mosaic using seeds. We have used pumpkin and sunflower seeds, but you could use any you like. You could even use raisins and oats. Press them down well to make sure they stick to the peanut butter.
- ▶ Thread a piece of string through and hang outside, or just pop it over a tree branch.



4 Example cardboard roll birdfeeder, by S Creek

Make a mosaic collage sign

This is one of the most famous mosaics ever found was in Pompeii. It is a sign that says 'beware of the dog' in Latin.



5 Beware of the Dog from a house in Pompeii

Source: <http://www.pompeii.org.uk/>

- ▶ Design a mosaic that could be used as a sign
- ▶ Sketch out the design for your collage first, as the Romans would have done
- ▶ Cut up coloured paper, magazine or newspapers into small squares and use these to create your mosaic design.

Use [RAMM's online mosaic maker](#) to design your own digital mosaic

Don't forget to take a photograph of your finished mosaic inspired pieces to show your teacher