

Roman Mosaics : Art : Year 3/4

	Learning Objective	Overview	Assessment Questions	Resources
Lesson 1	To explore existing mosaics and their features.	This initial lesson aims to introduce the children to mosaic as an art medium and specifically focus on Roman mosaics. The children will ask and answer questions about the art before identify common features of Roman mosaics. These include features based around the lines, patterns and composition of the mosaics. Finally, the children compare the ancient mosaics to more modern pieces by Antoni Gaudí.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can children describe what a mosaic is? • Are children able to ask and answer questions about a piece of art? • Are children able to spot common features in mosaic as a medium? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides • Children's sketchbooks • Challenge Card 1A/1B/1C • Mosaic Picture Cards 1A • Mosaic Picture Cards 1B (FSD? activity only) • Mosaic Detective Sheet (FSD? activity only) • Sticky notes (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 2	To explore line, shape, pattern and colour in mosaic design.	This lesson aims to challenge your class into spotting how the visual elements of line, shape, pattern and colour are used in art, particularly in Roman mosaics. They will discuss what these elements are, look for them in examples of mosaics and then recreate them as they experiment with placing tesserae. The lesson is an opportunity for the children to evaluate this medium and how these visual elements can be created.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can children identify visual elements such as line, shape, colour and pattern in a mosaic? • Are children able to create clear lines and shape using mosaic tesserae? • Can children comment on and discuss how they have used colour and pattern in a piece? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides • Children's sketchbooks • Challenge Cards 2A/2B/2C • Pre-cut paper tesserae in a variety of colours (around 1cm²) • Worksheet 2A/2B/2C (FSD? activity only) • Mosaic Technique Card 2A (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 3	To experiment with digital tools to create a mosaic.	This lesson studies the method of creating mosaics using a digital medium. The children will look at several examples of what could be considered digital mosaics and asked to comment on them. They then look at the artist Charis Tsevis and his mosaic portraits, as well as some pixel art, and discuss how these have been created. The children will then create their own digital mosaics or pixel art using online software or spreadsheet tables.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can children discuss and share their opinions on different variations of mosaic art? • Can children describe what pixel art is and how this is similar or different to physical mosaic? • Can children use digital software to create artwork inspired by mosaics? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides • Google Drawings Handout 3A • Challenge Card 3A • Devices with internet access • Question Cards 3A • Pixel Art Guide (FSD? activity only) • Pixel Art Ideas (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 4	To investigate different materials that could be used as tesserae.	This lesson is focused on allowing your children to explore, experiment with and evaluate different materials that can be used to created mosaics. They are shown several mosaics that have used alternative materials such as found plastics, beans, buttons, etc. They then spend their independent time exploring and evaluating different materials and if they might make good tesserae for a mosaic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can children use a curious approach when exploring different materials to use in their artwork? • Are children able to make sensible evaluations of a material when trying to create a mosaic? • Can children use their investigations to make an informed decision about materials to use in a mosaic? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides • Motif Cards • Evaluation Strip 4A/4B • Worksheet 4A (FSD? activity only) <p><i>You will need to collect a decent amount of each different material for the children to try out as mosaic tesserae. It would be beneficial if one of them were traditional tiles. Some suggestions are included at the bottom of the plan.</i></p>
Lesson 5	To design a mosaic in the style of a Roman mosaic.	In this lesson, children will draw on everything they've learned so far to design their very own Roman-inspired mosaic. After revisiting the key features and techniques used in Roman mosaics, such as the use of bold central images, patterned borders and the flow of tesserae (andamento), pupils will begin to develop a simple but purposeful mosaic plan. Through class discussion, children will generate and agree on a clear set of design criteria to guide their work and help them make thoughtful artistic decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can children create their own idea about what makes a successful mosaic? • Can children identify classic Roman mosaic techniques? • Can children follow design criteria to design a mosaic inspired by Roman mosaics? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides • Worksheet 5A • Challenge Card 5A/5B/5C • Mosaic Inspiration Picture Cards <p><i>You will need to have an idea of what is available for the children to make their mosaics from and adjust the design process accordingly, e.g. if you will be making coaster-sized mosaic or using paper tesserae.</i></p>

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Lesson 6	To create a mosaic inspired by Roman mosaics.	This lesson allows your class the opportunity to consolidate all their learning into their final piece: a mosaic inspired by Roman mosaics. The children will plan out the placement of their tesserae and take their time to assemble their mosaic. As an alternative, clay-skills activity, notes are provided to plan extra sessions which challenge your class to make their own clay tesserae to be used in their mosaics. This alternative activity extends the unit by a few sessions to allow for drying and painting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can children assess a mosaic design and predict challenging areas? • Are children able to plan out the placement of tesserae to create a mosaic? • Can children create visual elements of line, shape, contrast or pattern in a mosaic? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides • Teacher Notes 6A • Chosen mosaic materials, including tesserae, backing and adhesive (see Teacher Notes 6A) • Teacher Notes 6B (FSD? activity only) • Air-dry clay (FSD? activity only) • Clay tools (FSD? activity only)

KS2 Art Curriculum Objectives	Vocabulary	Teacher notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to create sketch books to record their observations • use sketchbooks to review and revisit ideas • to improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including sculpture with a range of materials • about great artists in history • about great architects in history 	<p>mosaic, tesserae, tessera, mortar, grout, wealth, status, motif, pattern, outline, frame, border, repeat, symmetry, geometric, Antoni Gaudí, colour, line, contrast, shape, visual element, organic, complementary, digital, medium, pixel art, pixels, Charis Tsevis, material, evaluate, properties, suitable, unsuitable, tessellation, tessellate, grid, offsetting, consistency, consistent, deliberate, detail, keystone, overlap, andamento, flow, design criteria, reflect, evaluate</p>	