

## Mosaics

The tradition of making mosaics goes back thousands of years. The method was designed out of practical reasons to give floors in their dwellings reinforcement. From simple materials such as pebbles it grew to using lime and crushed pottery. Mosaics give a wonderful rich textured effect to patterns and designs. They also tell stories and provide information on what life was like in different places and at different times.

### Materials:

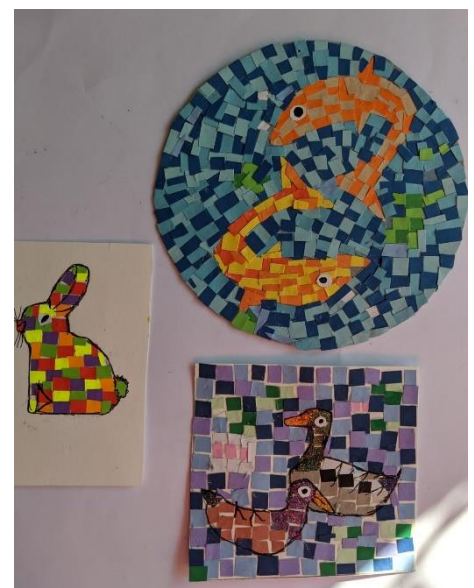
- Paper (coloured, watercolour),
- Cards,
- Cardboard,
- Scissors,
- PVA glue / glue stick,
- Pencils,
- Brushes,
- Felt-tip pens,
- Colouring pencils,
- Paints,
- Small collage items (rice, pearl barley, dried peas, seeds, small beads).

### Activity 1 – Mosaic Design

It is best to choose a simple image and to work on small pieces of paper. Start by drawing your design with pencil.

Next prepare your mosaic pieces. Choose the colours you are going to use and pile those sheets of paper on top of each other. I used 3 colours at a time. First cut fringes across the sheets and then cut in the other direction to end up with small square pieces.

Now have fun filling in your mosaic. I used a glue stick but you could use PVA. You may need to cut some pieces smaller to fill in gaps.



Alternatively, you could do a mosaic style painting. For this picture, I drew the landscape first and then split the larger areas into smaller mosaic-like pieces. You can then colour the individual blocks using paint, colouring pencils or felt-tip pens.



### Activity 2 – Making a mosaic

Another fun way to make a mosaic is to use dried food, such as seeds, or other materials. I have used small pieces of cardboard for my background.

Draw your design initially in pencil and then have fun filling in each area. PVA glue works well. Cover one small area at a time with glue and then add your mosaic pieces.

Leave it to dry fully before moving it.



### Activity 3 – Modern mosaics



Traditional mosaics tended to be composed of small pieces and often regular ones (as we have done so far). You could try and produce a more modern style of mosaic using a collage with lots of different sizes and shapes of torn/cut paper.

Alternatively, you could build up a picture by printing abstract shapes in bright colours.

