



St Leo's and Southmead
Catholic Nursery and Primary
School

Year
Four

Art Knowledge Organiser

Autumn
Term

Amazing Activities

Watch a 'Tour of a Roman Villa' BBC bitesize.

Create an exhibition in class of our Roman mosaics

Key Facts

Mosaics were used to decorate Roman buildings. They were made from tiny stones which they called tesserae and were therefore not as brightly coloured as today's mosaics.

Rich people had mosaic floors in their buildings. It was a symbol of how wealthy they were. Slaves would create the floors and use hard stones, sand and water to grind the stones down so they were smooth to walk on.

Some of the tiny stones were as small as 1-2mm for very intricate patterns and as many as 10 000 pieces of tesserae could be used in a mosaic measuring 1m x 1m.

Lots of mosaics in Britain were made from cut red brick or tile. Occasionally, they might use bits of glass for a particular effect.

They created strong surfaces for walking on but they were also used for advertisements and signs.

Mosaics featured geometric designs, as well as other images. Common themes were animals, fighting gladiators, romantic images and scenes from mythology and astronomy.

Romans liked to keep dogs as companions and for protection. Many mosaics in the Roman city of Pompeii had the Latin words for 'Beware of the Dog' written into the design.

Roman Mosaics

Challenge: To create a piece of art using collage (mosaic tiles) in the style of a Roman mosaic.

Explore the art of Roman Mosaics



Skills

- Use sketch books to collect ideas and develop a plan for a piece of work.
- Use taught technical skills to adapt and improve work.
- Draw familiar objects with correct proportions.
- Create different effects by using a variety of tools and techniques to produce a mosaic.
- Develop control and use of materials—collage of artists, architects and designers in Roman history.

Key Vocabulary

mosaic	a picture or pattern produced by arranging together small pieces of stone, tile, glass
tesserae	tiny coloured stones
pattern	repeated decorative design
mortar	a type of cement
bath house	where people would go to wash
hardie	a tool like a chisel
annotate	Add notes giving an opinion or comment

Curriculum Links

- **Literacy Link:** Opportunities for the children to use books and websites to research.
- **History Link:** links to History topic: Romans

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