

Rock Mosaics



Grade: 1st

Medium: Rock Mosaic

Learning Objective: Create patterns with rocks to form a mosaic.

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Principles of Design

Pattern: a principle of design; the repetition of the elements of visual arts in an organized way; pattern and rhythm are both created through repetition; see rhythm for examples of regular, alternating, random, and progressive rhythmic patterns.

Repetition: the repeated use of particular elements of visual arts to create a pattern, movement, rhythm, or unity.

Variation (variety): the use of the elements of visual arts to create differences in an artwork for visual interest.

Additional Vocabulary

Mosaic: An artwork made from small pieces of colored glass, stone, paper, or other materials.

Materials & Supplies

- Small rocks or pebbles in different colors, mosaic paper squares, pony beads, glass tile, recycled objects such as bottle caps, buttons, etc.
- Cardboard or Foamcore cut into 5x5" square or other shape (star, heart)
- Tacky glue
- Small containers for glue
- Wooden popsicle sticks or Cotton swabs to apply glue
- Pencil

Context (History and/or Artists)

Mosaic is the art of creating images with an assemblage of small pieces of colored glass, stone, or other materials. The earliest known examples of mosaics made of different materials were found at a temple building in Ubaid, Mesopotamia, and are dated to the second half of 3rd millennium BCE.

They consist of pieces of colored stones, shells and ivory. Excavations at Susa and Choqa Zanbil show evidence of the first glazed tiles, dating from around 1500 BCE.

Mosaics of the 4th century BCE are found in the Macedonian palace-city of Aegae and they enriched the floors of Hellenistic villas, and Roman dwellings from Britain to Dura-Europos. Splendid mosaic floors are found in Roman villas across north Africa, in places such as Carthage, and can still be seen in the extensive collection in Bardo Museum in Tunis, Tunisia. The most famous mosaics of the Roman world were created in Africa and in Syria, the two richest provinces of the Roman Empire. Many Roman mosaics are found in Tunisian museums, most of which date from the second to the seventh century CE.

Mosaics from Ancient Mesopotamia date back to 3rd Century B.C.E. Stone , ivory and shells were used to create the early mosaics.



Cone mosaic courtyard from Urak in Mesopotamia 3000 B.C.E



Example of Roman Geometric Mosaic
(<http://www.ancient.eu/article/498/>)

Advanced Preparation

Cut cardboard/foam core into squares or other shapes (approx. 5" x5") – one per student.
Pour glue into small cups and place popsicle stick or cotton swab in container.

Tips & Tricks

- Instead of cardboard or foam core, the border of a picture frame could be used as an alternative base for the mosaic.
- The docent may want to provide trays with separate compartments for the students to sort their rocks by color or size prior to gluing them down.

Discussion Points:

Explain to students they can sketch lines that are zigzag, wavy or straight.

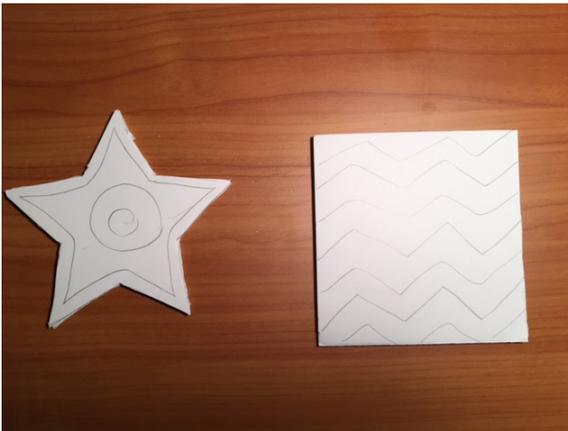
Math can be a discussion point by counting how many rocks it takes to complete a certain pattern.

Reflection Point (Assessment of Learning Objectives):

- Students can discuss what **patterns** they made.
- Students can point to **repeated** patterns and **variations** in the pattern
- Students can describe **mosaics** as an art form that is **made from small pieces of colored glass, stone, paper, or other materials.**

Instructions for Lesson:

1. Sketch lines on cardboard/foam core



2. Paint tacky glue on pencil lines with popsicle stick or cotton swab

3. Place rocks on glue in pattern



4. After rocks are placed to cover the whole surface of the cardboard/ foam core, place the project on a flat surface until completely dry.



Resource Image Links:

<http://www.cfishd.net/en/parents-students/academics/course-descriptions/elementary-art/glossary-art-terms-k-5/>, http://www.incredibleart.org/files/elem_vocab.html,
<http://arthistoryresources.net/ARTHLinks.html>, <http://arthistory.about.com/>,
<https://www.ancient.eu/Mosaic/>

Notes For Educators

21st Century Thinking Skills

Thinking Flexibly, Persisting, Problem Solving, Sequencing, and Classifying.

WA State Learning Standards

VA:Cr1.2.1- Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work. Use observation and investigation in preparation for making a work of art. Gather, explore, and thoughtfully select materials for use.

VA:Cr3.1.1- Refine and complete artistic work. Use art vocabulary (pattern, repetition, variation) to describe choices while creating art.

VA:Cn11.1.1- Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding. Understand that people from different places and times have made art for a variety of reasons.

Arts Integration Opportunities

Math: Geometry or pattern lesson.

History.

Geology/Earth Science connection with rock classification.