



## **Making Mosaics**

(Target Audience: All Ages)

For centuries, cultures such as the Romans made mosaics from small pieces of marble. They decorated the floors, and walls with colourful scenes. Early Christians created mosaics made from small pieces of glass. These produced a brilliant, glittering effect. The Chinese decorated walls and buildings with huge colourful mosaics and the Aztecs created beautiful masks.

For more information, look for mosaic art, Early Christian and Byzantine art, Roman, Chinese, Aztec and Mayan art and civilization.

You can make beautiful mosaics from paper.

### **Supplies:**

- Colourful paper of any kind – construction paper, writing paper, wrapping paper. Mylar paper from left-over chip bags and gold-coloured wrapping paper are great for creating a glittery look.
- Scissors
- Glue – paste or stick, either will do.
- A large sheet of paper or cardboard on which you make your mosaic.
- Pencil

### **Instructions:**

1. Cut the colourful paper into squares from 1/2 to 1-inch in size. This can be very rough so the shapes do not have to be perfect.
2. Draw an object, (a temple, the sun, a flower, etc.) on the large sheet of paper or cardboard. Ask your library for books and pictures of animals, people, plants – anything that you think would make a nice design.
3. Draw your shape lightly in pencil. Then, fill the object with the paper squares.
4. If you like, create a pattern by alternating different squares in a row. For example a row of red and yellow squares or gold, yellow, blue, etc.

Other possible shapes

