

Easy Paper Mosaic



Step-by-step guide to a fun, hands-on craft project that introduces children to the decorative art of mosaic.

A safe and easy activity requiring only a few simple art supplies to create beautiful, colourful results.

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Easy Paper Mosaic:

The decorative art of mosaic is a fun, hands-on way to bring history to life for children. Whether students are learning about the Ancient Romans, or the Art of Gaudi in the beautiful Spanish city of Barcelona, teachers can incorporate this easy craft activity into their lessons.

While artists use glass tiles and shards to produce beautiful and durable mosaics, these can be expensive and hazardous to use. Requiring only simple art cupboard staples, this mosaic project offers teachers a safe and easy way to introduce children to the craft, enabling their students to create their own stunning pieces of art.

Resources:

- Black card
- Coloured card
- Coloured pencils
- Coloured tissue paper
- PVA adhesive
- Brushes
- Scissors
- Glitter paint
- Coloured inks
- Plastic containers

Step 1: Designing the Mosaic

Children draw their design on a large sheet of black card using coloured pencils. Encourage them to keep their designs simple, as intricate patterns are more difficult to mosaic. They then colour the individual areas with the pencils. This creates a rough colour guide for students to follow when they are ready to add their tiles.

Step 2: Making the Mosaic

Using the colours in their drawing as a guide, children create the coloured sheets that they will cut into tiles. To begin, they select a piece of coloured tissue and tear it into 1-inch squares. They then apply the tissue to the same colour of A4 card using diluted PVA adhesive, brushing the glue over the tissue as they go to stick down any curling edges.

Students can experiment with effects by mixing up colours, such as lime green tissue on turquoise card, or orange tissue on pink card. Washing coloured inks over the surface will emphasise the textures, while brushing on glitter paints also creates interesting finishes. Leave overnight to dry.

Step 3: Cutting the Mosaic Tiles

Glazed by the PVA, inks and glitter paints, the vibrant sheets of colour have a convincing finish that emulates glass mosaic tiles. They are now ready for the children to cut into tiles. Using scissors, students cut the coloured sheets into 1cm strips, and then snip into small squares, using plastic containers to separate their colours.

Step 4: Creating the Mosaic

Children use a brush to apply thick, undiluted PVA adhesive to a small area of their design, filling with tiles in that colour. Combining two colours that are close to each other can create a lively effect, for example hot pink and red, or turquoise and blue.

Encourage students to leave a small gap between the tiles to create the mosaic effect. They can snip tiles with a pair of scissors to fit any awkward shapes or small areas. Applying the PVA over any curling edges and rubbing in with a finger will help flatten out awkward corners that refuse to stick down.

The Finished Mosaic:

Helping kids learn about educational topics while having creative fun, this craft project results in striking mosaics that add colour to classroom walls and school corridors.

By introducing children to the beautiful and ancient craft of mosaic, it may even inspire the next budding Gaudi!

