

## Art - Mosaics

### Year 4 Knowledge Organiser



#### Key Facts

- Mosaics were used to decorate Roman buildings. They were made from tiny stones which were called tesserae.
- 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.
- Mosaics in Britain were made from cut red brick or tile. Occasionally, they might use bits of glass for a particular effect.
- Mosaics featured geometric designs, as well as other images. Common themes were animals, fighting gladiators, romantic images and scenes from mythology and astronomy.
- Some of the tiny stones were as small as 1- 2mm<sup>2</sup> for very intricate patterns and as many as 10 000 pieces of tesserae could be used in a mosaic measuring 1m x 1m.

#### Vocabulary

- border** A strip forming the outer edge of something .
- geometric design** A design made from rectangles, squares and circles.
- hardie** A tool like a chisel, used to cut stones for mosaics.
- mortar** A type of cement used to stick the tesserae to the floor.
- mosaic** Pictures and patterns made from tiny pieces of coloured stone .
- motif** A decorative image or design, especially a repeated one, forming a pattern.
- tesserae** Tiny stones or tiles used to make a mosaic .

#### Key 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.
- Develop control and use of materials through collage
- Describe key ideas, techniques and practises of artists,

