

Roman Mosaics and numerals



Mosaics

The floors of Roman buildings were often richly decorated with mosaics. Mosaics were made from tiny coloured stones which they called tesserae.



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Mosaics

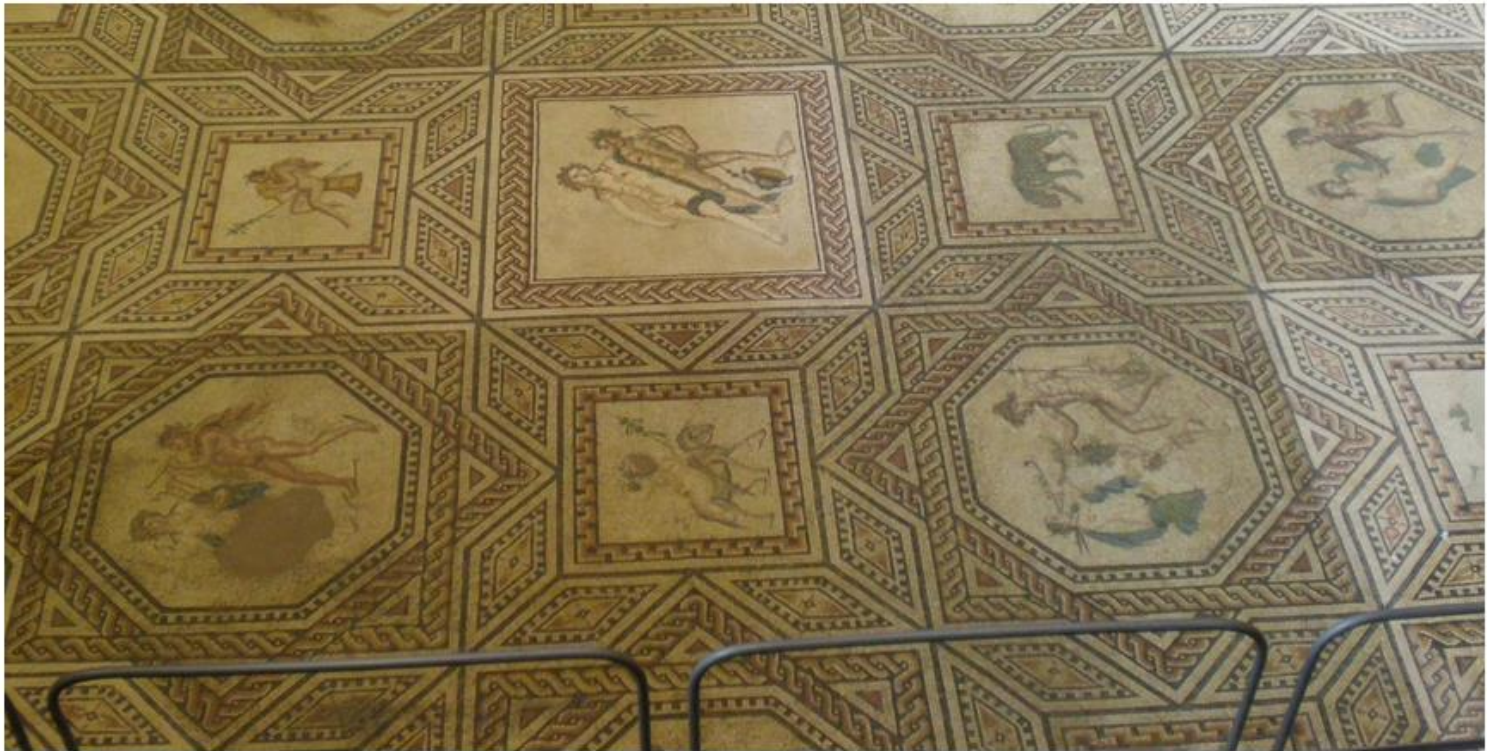
Mosaics have been found that show scenes of history, as well as everyday Roman life.



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Mosaics

Mosaic floors were a statement of how wealthy and important you were. Poor people would not be able to afford them. The bigger and more detailed the mosaic, the more impressive.



Mosaics

The Greeks were the first to make mosaics. They started by using pebbles and then also began to use cut stone with pebbles.



The Romans copied their method but just used cut stone instead of pebbles. Villas and bath houses had mosaic floors and some office signs were even made of mosaics.

Temples and public areas usually had patterned floors made with the larger cut stone tiles, a method known as Opus Sectile.

The mosaics were made from tiny piece of stone or pebble that were cemented to the floor in intricate patterns. They would take a very long time to make and used thousands of little pieces.

The Romans used a hammer and hardie to cut the stones to approximately 8-12mm. A hardie (on the left) is like a chisel, this would be stuck into a block of wood.

You don't see lots of bright colours in Roman mosaics. This is because they mainly used natural stones. The red, used particularly in Britain, was from cut brick or tile. Occasionally, they might use bits of glass for a particular effect.



Many mosaics used Roman numerals to create a pattern.





Roman numerals have survived for thousands of years and are still used today.

Roman numerals can be found on clocks, watches, sundials, film dates, book chapters and numbering, as bullet points and as the titles of Kings, Queens or Popes.

Roman Numerals

We will be looking at the numbers up to 12, which only use a combination of 3 letters.

Which letters can you see?

Can you see any patterns?

Roman Numeral	Number
I	1
II	2
III	3
IV	4
V	5
VI	6
VII	7
VIII	8
IX	9
X	10
XI	11
XII	12

What symbols can you spot to make these numbers?

The main letters here are:

I, V and X

I represents **1**
(or counting in 1s)

V represents **5**

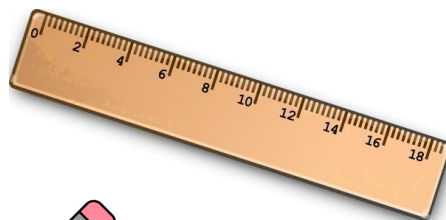
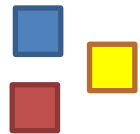
X represents **10**

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Today you are going to be trying to make your own Roman Mosaic.

You will need:

- 1 A4 piece of paper/card
- 3 different colours of 1cm by 1cm squares (you will need to cut these before starting)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Ruler
- Pencil





Making the mosaic:

- 1) Think of a Roman Numeral (1-12)
- 2) Draw your border
- 3) Draw your Roman Numeral (1-12)
- 4) Pick 3 different coloured squares.
- 5) Carefully start sticking your coloured squares down.

Do you think these instructions are very helpful?

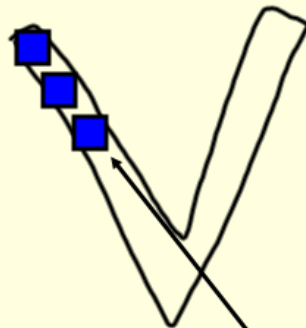
They are very simple so you might want to look at the next page with a picture on to help you work out how to make your mosaic.



Do you notice that there are little gaps between each square?



First colour of squares for border - fill it



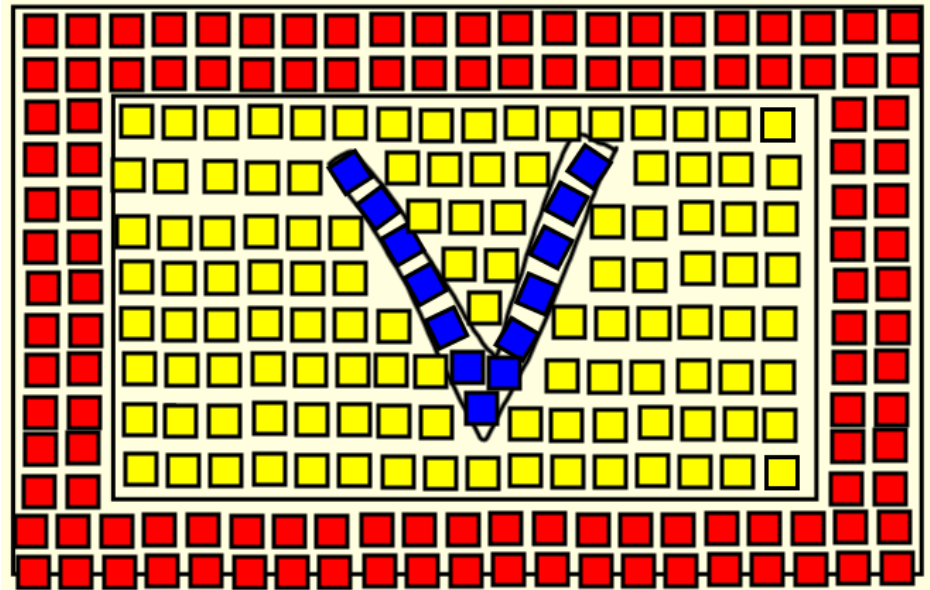
Second colour of squares for numeral - fill it

Third colour of squares for numeral - fill it

Now you have made your Roman mosaic, have a think about how you could improve those simple instructions. Could you add anything in to make it clearer?

Write these ideas down because we will talk about them tomorrow.

Finished Roman mosaic!



Now you are a Roman numeral converter, try this task!
Or give the Roman mosaic colouring sheets a go.



Write the following numbers:

Your age

Your birthday

Today's date

Christmas this year

New year's day next year