

Mosaic Embellished Boxes

Grades 5-12

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Description:

Mosaics represent one of the earliest art forms; the roots of this art form go back 4,000 years. The early Romans used mosaics to decorate their villas. They created tesserae – small colored tiles which allowed their mosaics to take on the qualities of fine painting. The Romans spread this art form as they conquered other civilizations. The Byzantine Empire introduced glass tiles and the Muslim world gave us the Great Mosque at Cordoba and the Alhambra Palace. Students can discover the use of mosaics in all cultures. In this lesson, students will create a mosaic-topped box using handmade and commercial mosaic tiles.

Objectives:

- Students will study early forms of mosaic art paying special attention to the Romans and their development of this early art form.
- Students will focus on the handmade qualities of early mosaics and the materials used to make tiles.
- Students will explore the commercial production of mosaic tiles and their uses today.
- Students will develop their own handmade tiles and create a mosaic work incorporating both handmade and commercial tiles.

Materials:

Decorate Me! Art Activity Box, 8-1/2" x 5" x 2-3/4", Pkg. of 12 (088017-705)

FIMO Classic White, 13-Oz. (407799-705)

Sax Texture Imprinting Mats, Set of 8, 22 Patterns (411222-705)

Sax Pattern Imprinting Mats, Set of 12 (404865-705)

Lumiere Paint, 2.25-Oz. Bottles, 8 Colors (402891-705)

Sargent Liquid Metal Acrylics, 8-Oz. Jars, 6 Colors (405594-705)

Pearl-Ex Pigments, 0.75-Oz., 6 Colors (247581-705)

Wheeled Glass Nippers (248221-705)

Mosaic Colored Mirror Tile Assortment, 1/2", 1 Lb., 400 tiles (406097-705)

Iridized Venetian Glass Tile Assortment, 3/4" tiles, 3 Lbs. (411687-705)

Square Glass Mosaic Tiles, 7/16", 3 Lbs., 950 Tiles (248323-705)

Sax Special Bulk Tile, 3/8", Porcelain, 5 Lbs. (452519-705)

Vintage Mosaic Broken Tile Assortment, 4-Lb. Bag (401544-705)

Glass Mosaic Shape Assortment, 3 Lbs. (1306690-705)

Stain Glass Mega Mosaic Tile Assortment, 8 Lbs. (1306689-705)

Mosaic Tile Adhesive, Quart (403051-705)

Weldbond Concentrated Glue, 8-Oz. (452375-705)

Assorted Charms, Pkg. of 100 (410738-705)

Rub'n Buff, Gold Leaf, 1/2-Oz. Tubes (401434-705)

Assorted Seed Beads, Rochailles, 1/2-Lb. Bag (086647-705)

Royal Golden Taklon Ultra Short Brushes, Set of 10 (410603-705)

Resources:

Mosaic Techniques & Tradition, Book (411911-705)

Mosaics Piece by Piece, Book (1274046-705)

Directions:

1. Observe and discuss mosaics from other cultures and periods of history. What were their uses? What materials were used?
2. Select a box to embellish. Prep the cover of the box with Mosaic Tile Adhesive. This adhesive will give the mosaics a surface to adhere to. Allow this adhesive to dry. Paint the box with a metallic acrylic paint inside and out. Set aside.
3. Make a paper template of the surface to be covered with mosaic tile. Set aside.
4. Use FIMO polymer clay to create individual tiles by rolling out the FIMO to the thickness of commercial tiles. Imprint the FIMO with the Sax Imprinting Mats. Cut individual tile shapes from the imprinted FIMO. Transfer individual tiles to a baking sheet and follow baking instruction on FIMO package to create individual tiles.
5. Students can also create their own designs on the rolled out FIMO, then cut into individual tiles and bake. Be creative.
6. Once baked and cooled these tiles can be painted and embellished with Rub 'N Buff or Pearl-Ex Pigments. Charms, beads or jewels can be glued onto the tiles at this time. It is recommended to paint the tops and side of the tiles. You never know what is going to show.
7. For variety, commercial tiles can also be used. They can be used straight from the manufacturer or embellished just like handmade tiles.



8. Using the paper template made earlier, layout the mosaic design. Tiles will have to be trimmed to fit into the template with the tile nippers. Small gaps can be filled in with seed beads.
9. Use the Wellbond Glue to adhere tiles to the prepared box surface. Start at one end of the template and work through to the other end just as the design is laid out.
10. Students can decorate the sides of the box; create a handle and add legs to further enhance this piece of art.

National Art Standards:

Content Standard #1: Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes.

Content Standard #3: Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas.

Content Standard #4: Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures.