

Session: Tessellated Tunbridge Ware

Focusing on our Tunbridge Ware collection (the largest in the world), this session looks at the mosaics so often found on these unique pieces of art. Students will be shown how to define a mosaic and to recognize tessellation. They will also gain an understanding of why some shapes tessellate and others do not, and to create and explore tessellating patterns. Merging maths and art, this session provides a unique opportunity for a truly cross-curricular experience and for students to gain a better understanding of the holistic nature of learning.

Session Breakdown:

- Introduction: What is a mosaic?
- Mosaic Making
 - Look at examples of Tunbridge Ware
 - Discover what 'tessella' are, and view examples
 - Mosaic making
- Tessellating Shapes
 - Looking at artists who work in mosaics (shapes they use)
 - Why do some shapes tessellate and not others?
 - Create tessellated collage using a regular polygon
- Tessellation Expanded (KS2)
 - Extension of tessellating shapes activity
 - More complex artist examples
 - Brief investigation of Arabic Art
 - Students created tessellated pattern with foreground and background
- Museum Exploration
 - Tunbridge Ware Room – Where are the mosaics?

Duration: 1.5hrs (Museum), 1hr (Outreach)

Curriculum Links:

Key Stage 1: Maths – Shape, Space and Measures (1e, 2a, 2c)

Art & Design – (2b, 3b, 4a, 4b, 5a-d)

Key Stage 2: Maths – Shape, Space and Measures (1c, 2b, 2c, 3b)

Art & Design – (2c, 3a, 4a-c, 5a-d)

Artefacts Used:

- Various Items of Tunbridge Ware
- Arabic mosaic tiles