

No. 15645

# Mineral Mosaics

Create beautiful mosaic art and learn about minerals!

Mosaics are beautiful designs made up of small pieces of glass, stones, pottery pieces and other materials. An artist arranges the tiny pieces according to their shape and color and creates images or patterns. The pieces are set in plaster or cement and used to decorate walls, floors and ceilings in homes, places of worship and other important buildings.

Mosaic art dates back to Ancient times in the cities of Babylon, Egypt, Greece and Rome. Mosaic art was valued for its beauty, ingenuity and durability. Artists assembled millions of tiny pieces of hand cut glass and stone to create artwork for the kings and queens. This ancient craft was abandoned after the early middle ages, but saw an emergence in the 19th century as architects and designers resurrected the old art form. Our Mineral Mosaics are inspired by this wonderful tradition. The kit includes 2500 3/4" (2 cm) squares printed on both sides. Each side features a photograph of a mineral. We have included reproducible artwork with blank patterns. Glue mosaic pieces in the blank spots. Learn more about each mineral with the Rocks and Minerals poster detailing information about each sample.

Let's look at Minerals. Minerals are natural compounds formed through geological processes. Minerals are inorganic and pure whereas rocks are composed of various materials, sometimes even organic remains. There are many different rocks and minerals. We have chosen a selection of beautifully colored and textured samples. The Rocks and Minerals poster lists information on 49 samples. Hang it up in the classroom and refer to it when using the mosaic pieces.

Use mineral mosaics to create beautiful artwork! Reproduce the artwork grids and hand out one to each student. Use small amounts of glue or glue sticks to apply the mosaics to the artwork. Once complete, encourage students to compare their artwork with other students. The mosaics offer a wide range of color and texture options so using the same grid can produce strikingly different results.

Make your own mosaic artwork. Borrow some books from the library featuring mosaic artwork or architecture depicting mosaics. Study the pictures with your students and explore how the artists used mosaic colors and shapes to create perspective, shading and details on their designs. When you are ready, make your own artwork. Mosaic artwork is time consuming, so speed up the process by handing out smaller sheets of card stock to each student no bigger than 10 x 10" (25 cm). Draw a simple picture on the card stock with pencil. Fill in the details with mosaics. Have scissors handy so you can cut mosaics to the size you need to fill in the picture.

