



# Lesson Plan:

## Byzantine Empire Tilework

This one was created by our school distributor, School Specialty. Everyone knows about “tile work” or “mosaics”, but does everyone know of its beginnings? Dating back many centuries, the Byzantine Empire used these works on decorative walls, ceilings and floors. These tiled pieces could be simply designed to be geometrical or intricately created to represent a portrait or landscape. In this activity, participants will explore and create simple mosaics using cardstock.



### Activity:

1. Discuss the origins of mosaic tiles and view several examples, including the Byzantine Empire and various architectural buildings/temples.
2. Keeping the design simple is encouraged due to the size of the tiles (approx. 3/8” x 3/8”).
3. Have participants select their tiles from the pile (tiles are colored on both sides with a total of 13 color choices).
4. Starting with full-sized tiles, let participants start gluing them down on paper base in their desired pattern. Keep small spaces between tiles in order to create a “grouted” effect.
5. Once full-sized pieces are in place, fill in other areas by cutting square tiles down to fit. Cuts do not have to be perfect; in fact, sometimes it looks better for them to be slightly smaller than the space they fit into.

**Optional:** For an aging effect, take thinned black acrylic paint and brush over tiles to dull color. Be sure to test the paint for transparency, otherwise you may turn your tiles black!

**Final Step:** With a flat, wide brush, students will take clear acrylic varnish and paint over entire surface.

### Supplies Needed:

- Roylco Double Color Mosaic Squares, 10,000 Pcs
- Glue
- Scissors
- Acrylic varnish & brush
- Optional: black acrylic paint & brush

### Alyssa’s tip:

Get some extra mosaic squares. These can be used for SO many projects!

