

Roman Mosaics

What is a mosaic? Is it a picture or a pattern?

Find me first to start working out the answer!

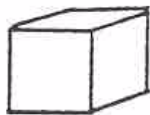


Did you know that there weren't any rabbits in Britain when the Romans were here - only hares! (Rabbits came later.)

(Clue: I am high up on a wall - not far from the Roman garden.)

I am part of a large mosaic. Can you see all the little pieces used to make me? Tick the box if you can.

The little pieces are called tesserae. They are really this shape:



....but you can only see the top of them !

What shape is the animal inside? (Circle the right one.)

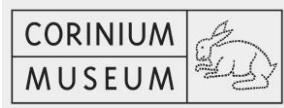
circle pyramid cube cone sphere square

What colours are the tesserae?

.....

Now look at the mosaic on the floor. Feel the tesserae.

Are they rough or smooth ?



Why do you think this is?

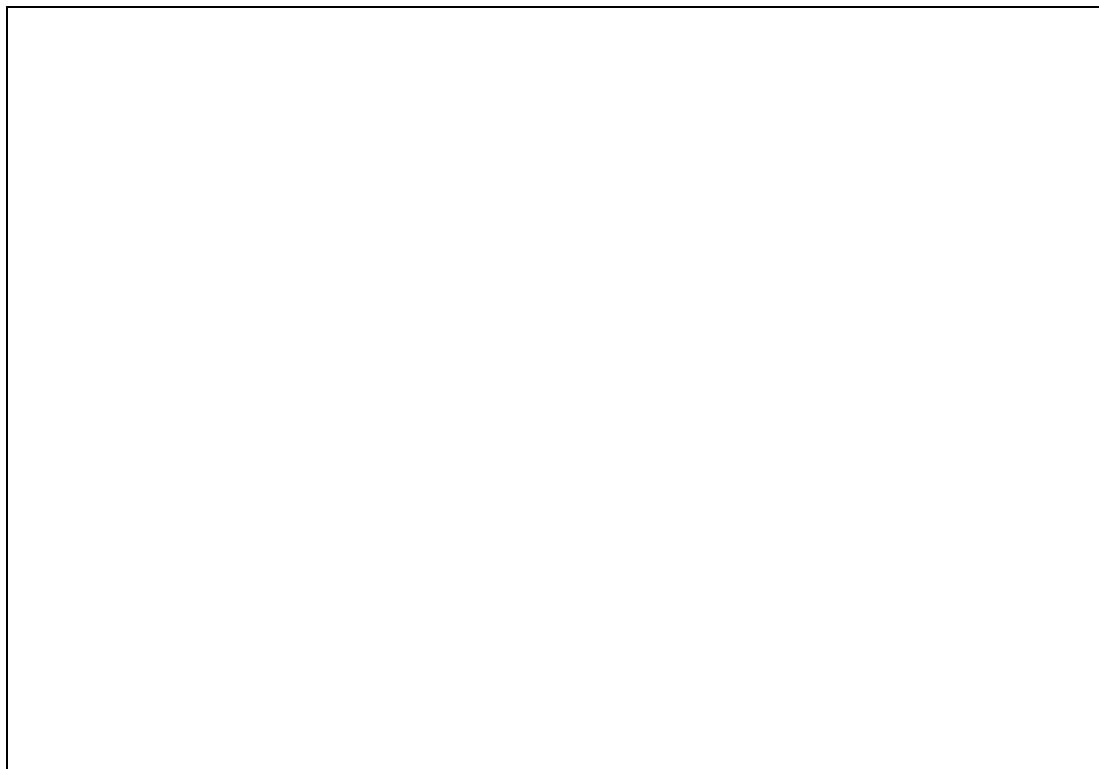
.....

What materials do you think they are made of? Tick the box(es) below by the right answer(s).

glass stone plastic terracotta metal wood

(Clue: Terracotta is an orange coloured clay.)

Can you draw part of the mosaic pattern in the box below?
(It's not as easy as it looks! If you like, try and draw one of the mosaics on the wall instead.)



So, is a mosaic a picture or a pattern - or both?



Now see how many more mosaics you can find in the museum.

Write how many you found in the box.

Did you know that Corinium (the Roman name for Cirencester) had some of the best mosaic artists in Roman Britain?

Write the names of any other mosaics you find in the box below, or if you like you can draw one of them instead.



Food and Cooking in Roman Britain

Look closely at the reconstruction of a Roman kitchen.

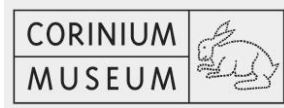
Draw or list two types of food which the Romans ate that you think you would like and two that you think you would dislike.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to draw or list food items.

Now draw some of the objects used to help with the cooking.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to draw cooking objects.

Tick the box when you spot the guernstone (a large circular stone used to grind corn to make flour).



Now find the reconstruction of a **Roman Triclinium**.

What was this room used for?.....

How was it lit?.....

How was the floor decorated?.....

Are the walls painted like your walls at home? Yes/No (circle the answer)

Find these items. Put a tick in the boxes below when you spot them.

Candlestick

A sofa for eating

A lyre (to play music)

Think about where you eat your dinner at home. Write or draw two ways in which it is different and two ways in which it is similar to our rooms today.

Similar

Different



Clothing and Looking Good

Go to the panels about clothing and jewellery (upstairs).

Find this ring.



What do you think the key would be used for?

Find a different ring and draw it here.



Did Roman women have their ears pierced? Yes or No

(Circle which one you think is right)

Find and draw something that could be worn in women's hair.



Romans were very keen on keeping clean. That meant they had a lot of objects to help get rid of the dirt!

Find these objects and tick the box when you have seen them.

An eyebrow comb

A nail cleaner

Tweezers

Find and draw something used for brushing your hair.

Find and draw a Roman mirror.




Is the mirror made of glass?

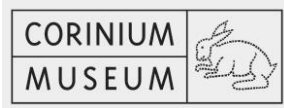
Yes or No

(Circle which one you think is right)

What could you do to metal so that you could look into it?

.....

What did Romans use to clean their teeth?



Education and Leisure

Go to the panels about education and leisure (upstairs).

Look at the pictures on the education panel.

What did Romans write on?

What is written on the tablet from Vindolanda?

.....

The Romans used a to write with.
(Fill in the missing word.)

Find a something to write with and something to write on in the cases and draw them here.

What evidence can you find in the cases to show that Romans used ink?

.....

Go to the Leisure panels.

Find this object.



What animal is chasing a hare?.....

Have you seen these animals shown anywhere else in the museum?

Yes or No (Circle your choice)

As well as hunting, gambling was also a favourite pastime of Romans.

Find these objects and tick the box when you have seen them.

Game counters

A dice

A dice shaker

Find the picture of gladiators fighting. These fights took place in an . (Fill in the missing word. Clue: you will find the answer in the panel text.)

Romans also watched plays being performed in a theatre.

Find and draw a theatre mask.

You have finished!

