

Studying a technique: Making mosaics

Byzantines adopted the technique used in the Roman Empire for making mosaics.

Romans decorated their buildings with mosaic floors. Typical designs were scenes from daily life and mythology.

Byzantines represented the emperor or religious scenes in their mosaics.



Mosaic Bizantí a Santa Sofia (Istambul)

It would have been unacceptable to step on them, and so these mosaics were used to cover the walls and ceilings of palaces and churches.

The irregularities in the mosaics captured the light and illuminated the walls.

How do you make a mosaic?

Cover the walls with three layers of plaster made of lime, sand and straw.

Paint the design of the mosaic on the wet plaster.

Press the tesserae, or tiles, one by into the wet plaster to match the painted surface.

Make your own mosaic

You need:

A piece of card instead of a wall.

Some glue instead of plaster.

Magazines which you can cut up to make your tiles.

Here you can see some mosaics made by our students:

