



DON'T BE A SQUARE





VMFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

200 N. Boulevard | Richmond, VA 23220 www.VMFA.museum

CONCEPT/OVERVIEW

Romans placed thousands of tiny squares of stone, terracotta, or glass tiles (tesserae) next to each other to make this pictorial mosaic. Roman mosaics show scenes of daily life such as the harvest as well as stories of heroes, scenes from plays, sports, games, the natural environment, and animals in addition to abstract and geometric patterns. Mosaics decorated the walls, floors, and even ceilings of Roman buildings. The winged boys (erotes) shown here wear and carry things that represent each of the four seasons (spring, summer, fall, and winter). Let's find the clues that tell about each season.

VIRGINIA'S FOUNDATION BLOCKS FOR EARLY LEARNING

- Literacy 1ab, 2bf, 4e, 5e
- Mathematics 1abc, 3bcd, 4abd, 6ab
- Science 1ab, 3b
- History/Social Science 1e, 2bg, 3ae, 4ab
- Personal and Social Development 1ade, 3ab

RELATED STANDARDS OF LEARNING FOR VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Visual Arts K.2, K.3, K.15
- English K.1, K.2
- History/Social Science K.2, K.3, K.4, K.5
- Mathematics K.2, K.18
- Science K.1, K.4, K.10

BOOKS

Picture This! by Allison Jay
Nature's Paintbrush by Susan Stockdale

VOCABULARY

art artist

museum

Rome/Roman

ancient

mosaic tesserae

square

tile stone

erotes

glass

picture nature

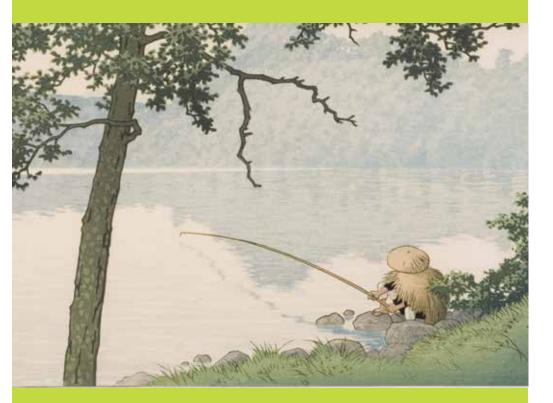
pattern

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

- 1. Look at the pictures in *Piece by Piece! Mosaics of the Ancient World* by Michael Avi-Yonah.
- 2. Build a floor mosaic using building blocks.
- 3. Find a mosaic in your neighborhood or city (possible locations: public building, church, school, library, or theater).
- 4. Make a mosaic with small squares of construction paper and glue.

IMAGE Floor Mosaic Depicting the Four Seasons (detail), 2nd half of the 3rd c. AD, Roman, stone and glass tesserae, 70×204 in. Adolph D. and Wilkins C. Williams Fund

SOMETHING'S FISHY



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CONCEPT/OVERVIEW

The Japanese art of printmaking has been used for hundreds of years. Here is a picture of a Japanese woodblock print or *ukiyo-e* (u-key-o-ee). What is the man in the picture doing? What time of day do you think it is? Why?

Japan is an island surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and five different seas. The people of Japan go fishing often and eat lots of different kinds of fish.

Imagine that this man caught a big fish. Can you name the parts of the fish (eye, head, mouth, gills, body, scales, tail)?

VIRGINIA'S FOUNDATION BLOCKS FOR EARLY LEARNING

- Literacy 2f, 3d, 5ef
- Mathematics 3bd, 6a
- **Science** 1ab, 4a, 6ab
- History/Social Science 1ae, 3a, 4b
- Physical and Motor Development 1ab
- Personal and Social Development 1c, 2e, 3ab

RELATED STANDARDS OF LEARNING FOR VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Visual Arts K.3, K.5, K.7, K.8, K.10, K.11, K.12, K.13
- English K.1, K.2, K.4
- History/Social Science K.2, K.4, K.5
- Mathematics K.10
- Science K.1, K.2, K.4, K.6, K.8, K.9
- Music K.4

BOOKS

Cat and Fish by Neil Curtis
The Little Red Fish by Taeeun Yoo
A Swim through the Sea by Kristin Joy Pratt
One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish by Dr. Suess

VOCABULARY

art
artist
ukiyo-e
museum
map
Japan/Japanese
print
fish
scales

gills

line

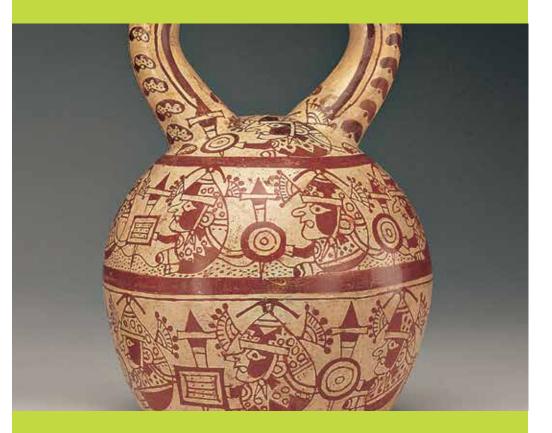
pattern

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

- 1. Go fishing and draw what you catch.
- 2. Look at pictures of fish, cut out your favorites and make a collage.
- 3. Practice other direct-printing techniques using objects from nature, such as leaves, sticks, flowers, fruit, or vegetables.

IMAGE **Lake Matsubara, Shinshu** (detail), 1941, Kawase Hasui (Japanese), color woodblock print, $9\frac{3}{16}$ x 14 $\frac{5}{16}$ in. René and Carolyn Balcer Collection

PERU MOCHE BOTTLE



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CONCEPT/OVERVIEW

Art can tell us about how people lived in the past by revealing daily activities, games, and personal beliefs. The Moche (pronounced Mo-chay) people of Peru made this bottle. The figures on this vase are warriors or soldiers whose bodies are shaped like beans. Beans were an important food to the Moche. What food is important to you?

VIRGINIA'S FOUNDATION BLOCKS FOR EARLY LEARNING

- Literacy 1bc, 2f, 3d
- Mathematics 4cd, 6abc
- Science 1ab, 3be
- History/Social Science 1ae, 2bdeg, 4cd
- Physical and Motor Development 1ab
- Personal and Social Development 1cd, 3ad

RELATED STANDARDS OF LEARNING FOR VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Visual Arts K.3, K.5, K.11, K.13
- English K.1, K.2
- History/Social Science K.2, K.4, K.7
- Mathematics K.18
- Science *K.1, K.4

BOOKS

The Pot That Juan Built by Nancy Andrews-Goebel Follow the Line around the World by Laura Ljungkvist Imagine a Day by Sarah L. Thompson Patterns in Peru by Cindy Neuschwander

VOCABULARY

art
artist
museum
map
South America
Peru
Moche
clay

pottery line (dotted, vertical, diagonal, horizontal)

pattern repetition

geometric shapes (square, rectangle, triangle)

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

- 1. Make a picture on a piece of paper or paper plate using dried beans.
- 2. Learn more about the culture of the Moche.
- 3. Make a mud pinch pot or cup using dirt or clay.

IMAGE **Stirrup-handled Vessel** (detail), circa AD 500, Peruvian (Moche), buff terracotta with brown, red, and cream slips, 11½ inches high. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Sandford G. Etherington

ART AROUND THE WORLD WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAM



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CONCEPT/OVERVIEW

Artist George Catlin captured history in detail by painting the American Indians he met and often lived with. The bison (often mistakenly called buffalo) in this painting lived in the Plains region of the United States, which has large areas of grass and open rolling hills. The Plains Indians depended on bison for food, clothing, and shelter. Have you ever seen bison at the zoo or in a picture? What other animal is as large as a bison? What types of animals do we depend on for food or clothing today?

VIRGINIA'S FOUNDATION BLOCKS FOR EARLY LEARNING

- Literacy 1abc, 2ac, 6a
- Mathematics 4d
- **Science** 1 abd, 3de, 4a, 6c
- History/Social Science 1ae, 2bdg, 3ace
- Physical and Motor Development 1ab
- Personal and Social Development 1cd, 2e, 3ad

RELATED STANDARDS OF LEARNING FOR VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Visual Arts K.3, K.5, K.10
- English K.1, K.2, K.3, K.11
- History/Social Science K.4
- Mathematics K.2, K.11, K.12, K.13
- Science K.1, K.2, K.4

BOOKS

The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush by Tomie dePaola

Mama Says—A Book of Love for Mothers and Sons by Rob Walker

The Man Who Painted Indians by Nancy Plain

VOCABULARY

George Catlin art artist Plains Indians buffalo history paintings brown

furry curved line

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

- Visit bison at Maymont Nature Center (Richmond) or Metro Richmond Zoo (Chesterfield County). Sketch what you see.
- 2. Read When the Rain Sings: Poems by Young Native Americans.
- 3. Visit the National Museum of the American Indian website at www.nmai.si.edu/.

IMAGE **Buffalo Chase** (detail), 19th c., George Catlin (American), oil on cardboard on Bristol board, 21 $^{3}\!4$ x 27 $^{7}\!/_{8}$ in. Paul Mellon Collection