



MAKE IT

**THE
GROWING
SCHOOLS GARDEN**

**LEARNING OUTSIDE
THE CLASSROOM**

Wetland and Arid Zone

Mosaic Tiles

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Mosaic tiles for paths and walls



Description

Mosaic tiles, 40cm square, displaying the key motifs and character of the local area, reflecting the landscape in which the children live. The name of the school could be included in the mosaic. These tiles should be colourful and vibrant. The colours of the school uniform or badge could inform colour choices.

Function

As a pedestrian surface inlaid into the pathways, or as panels mounted on walls. The mosaics should be free of sharp edges and composed of sufficiently small units to prevent slipping in wet weather.

Location

In the Growing Schools Garden, the mosaics were placed in the pathways leading between the wetland and the arid, prairie-style borders. They were also used as wall decorations on the school buildings and garden walls.

Construction materials

Base

- For a mosaic in the pathway, a 400mm square pre-cast concrete slab
- For a mosaic on the walls, a 400mm square panel of marine plywood

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Tiles, adhesive and grout

- 0.5m² of kitchen tiles in mixed colours.
- Rapid set tile adhesive, 5kg
- Wide joint grout, 3.5kg

Both the adhesive and grout should be grey in colour, as white tends to bleed the tile colours and grey doesn't show the dirt as much.

Extra materials

You may wish to use pebbles, glass beads, etc within your mosaic but make sure they are bedded-in securely. All materials used in the construction should be fully weather proof

Equipment

You will also need a pair of nippers, hammer, tea towels, goggles, spreader and sponges.

Contributing schools

Bertie's Playgroup, Kent



Fair Oak Infant School, Hampshire

Our two mosaics show our school logo of a child watering seeds by an oak tree, and the detail of the watering can sprinkling water on the seeds. Materials for this were donated by local suppliers. The mosaics were designed by a teacher and a parent made them with the children. We love them so much we are going to make some for our school grounds.

'It was exciting making the mosaic because I have never made one before. I used tiles and stones and it looked pretty when it was finished' Kate

Falconer's Hill Infant School, Northamptonshire

We have created mosaics that depict our school mascot Fizz (a falcon chick - after our name Falconer's Hill Infants) and the Eco-school emblem of a tree. We have a giant mosaic at school that everyone in the school contributed to showing the children dancing around a mulberry bush.

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Broadlands Primary School, Devon

We made tiles showing a Hereford bull and the view from the infant playground in Spring, with the Malvern Hills in the distance and the Lugg River and Lammas meadows in the foreground.



'I enjoyed it when we made our ideas into real mosaics, especially sticking the mosaics onto the slabs' (Year 2 pupil)

Highdown School and Sixth-Form Centre, Reading

The mosaics were designed to represent our local area which, although urban, lies above the river Thames on the edge of the Chilterns. The benefit of this kind of project is that students are able to follow the complete design process from initial idea or design brief through to the finished piece. This is especially good for the Applied Art & Design GCSE group. Students have been able to work with a range of materials and also consult professionals both in and outside school. The learning experience has also included working as a group, meeting deadlines and producing work for display for a specific audience and purpose.

'I really enjoyed working with mosaic as I haven't had the opportunity to do so before. Thank you for the experience.'

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Oldbury-on-Severn C of E VC Primary School, Bristol



Perranporth County Primary School, Cornwall

The children have prepared mosaic floor tiles based on their ideas of the uniqueness of our home on the Atlantic coast here in Cornwall. Surfing, breakers, glorious sunsets as well as the cross of St Piran all feature in the design ideas.



Sidestrand Hall School

We have made floor and wall plaques on the themes of the Woolly Elephant of West Runton (a local woolly mammoth fossil) and Poppyland, the fictitious name given to Sidestrand village by Victorian journalist Clement Scott.

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St John's C of E Primary School



In the Growing Schools Garden

