



Handicraft Lesson

Handicraft

For our handicraft lesson, we will be creating a Roman-inspired mosaic. We have intentionally kept this lesson simple so that everyone in the family can create together and even experiment with their own designs if desired.

However, feel free to use glass mosaic tiles with grout (and safety goggles) if you want to kick it up a notch.

Furthermore, we recommend the Roman mosaic video lesson (using glass tiles) from the Masterpiece Society's *Art Through the Ages: Classical Art* course.

"I've filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him skill and know-how and expertise in every kind of craft to create designs ... he's an all-around craftsman."

~ Exodus 31:3-5

Roman Mosaic



Although the Greeks created mosaic designs, the Romans actually perfected and excelled at the art. Artisans would cut stones and bits of marble into tiny pieces (usually only 1-2 centimeters in diameter for floors and less than a millimeter in diameter for walls) to create extravagant designs for Roman homes.

Careful attention to detail was paramount so that each piece would display the correct perspective, which involved the correct color selection and shading of values with the placement of the stones. Then, the elaborate decoration of the borders and other design details had to be taken into consideration as well.

In this lesson, we are going to recreate a Roman bird mosaic inspired by the piece above.

Supplies Needed:

- Dried beans: black, red, & white or beige beans
- Substrate (heavy cardboard or wood)
- School glue &/or Mod Podge
- Cotton swabs
- Bird template (next page)

Instructions:

1. Transfer the bird pattern to your substrate using the template on the following page. Reduce or enlarge the template to match your board.
2. Use a cotton swab to spread a generous amount of glue over the head, back, wings, tail, and branch, then carefully place the black beans over these areas. Try to keep the beans facing in the same direction if possible, and make sure they are close together. (Be sure to leave spaces for the eye and red areas of the wing.)
3. Next, spread glue over the breast of the bird, the beak, and the feet. Add in red beans in these areas. (Don't forget to add a few rows of red beans on the wings and tail.)
4. After the bird's body is filled in with beans, begin spreading glue around the rest of your substrate. Fill in this area with white or beige beans. Put a white bean in the bird's eye.



5. *Optional:* After you fill in the entire piece with beans, add another layer of glue or Mod Podge for extra protection. Allow to dry completely, and enjoy your Roman mosaic!

