

MOSAIC TILE ART

Activity Guide

Activity

Use the tiles provided to create your own mosaic artwork. See the examples provide for inspiration (Examples 1-6). Challenge yourself to create something using limited colours and spacing. You can even make use of dimensions—try stacking tiles to create a 3D effect!

Like in the Hoofprint Tradition, you can create a representation of something such as an animal or you can challenge students to create a “beadwork” tile design based on a topic that you’re discussing in your classroom such as family, self-identity, or kindness. How can these concepts be represented through simple designs without too much detail?

Beadwork (especially the beadwork in Wanuskewin’s exhibits) can be a visual reminder of a fact, memory, or story. Sometimes it can tell you about the person who created it. What does the mosaic design you created remind you of? What does it say about you?

Make sure to take photos of the art you create if you want to continue this conversation in the classroom!

Take It Further

Brightly-coloured geometric (regular or straight lines and shapes) beading designs are often associated with the Indigenous groups of the Plains. Explore the beadwork designs in the exhibits. Try to find geometric designs in Wanuskewin’s exhibits or galleries.

- Can you pick out any familiar shapes or images within the geometric designs? (Hint: the geometric designs are often inspired by nature.)
- Think about the colours used? Why might those specific colours be used? What might these colours call back to in nature?

Continue this in the classroom

Using the same prompt (or a new one with a theme you are studying), create a larger version of these geometric “beadwork” designs using graph paper. Colour each square. Continue with the limited colour palette or expand your colour selection. Research geometric beading and use some examples as inspiration!