

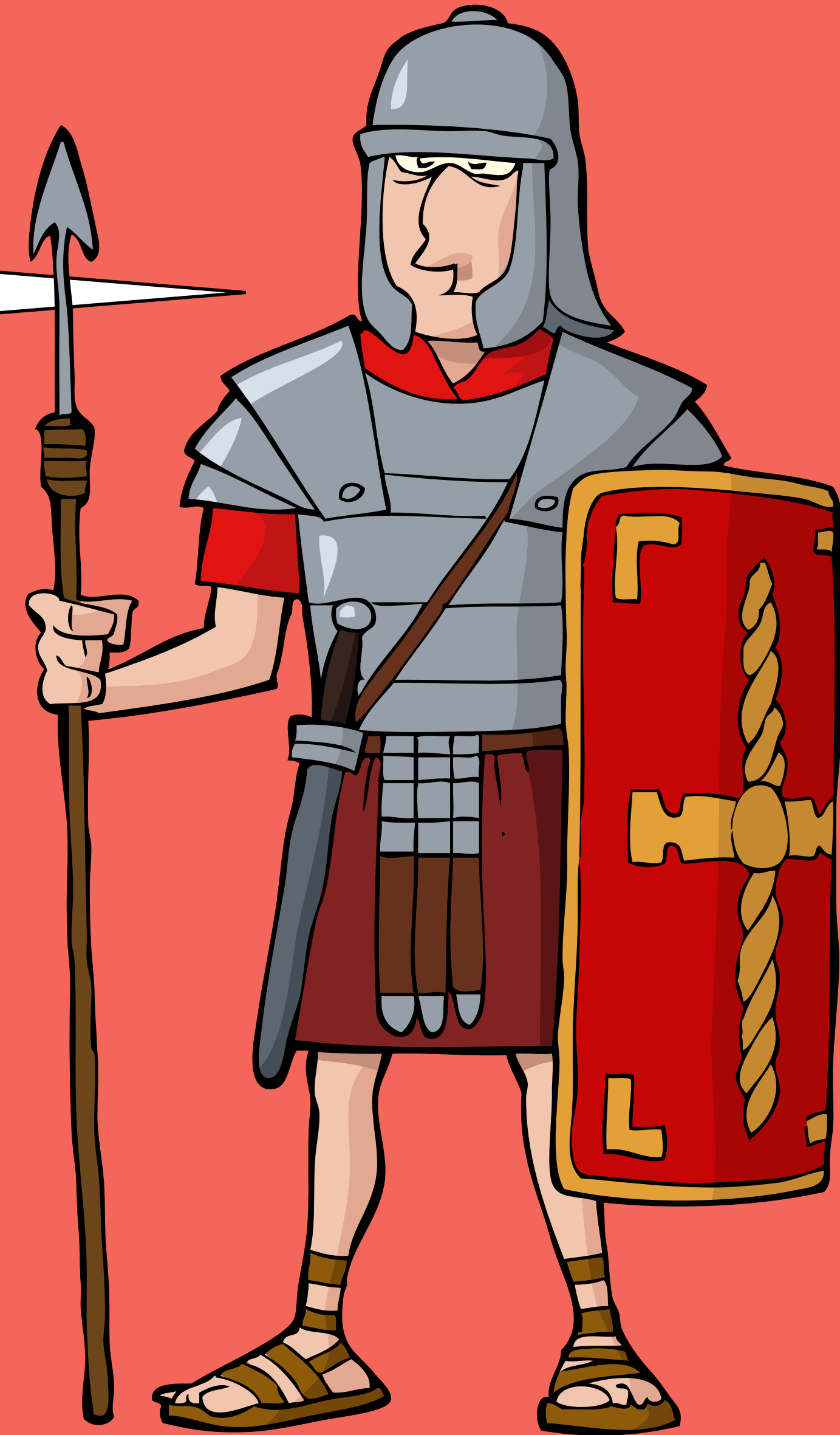


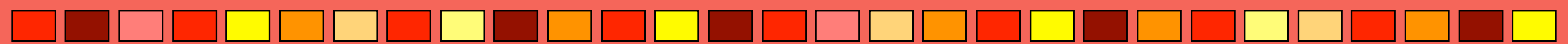
# The Romans

Learning Objective:

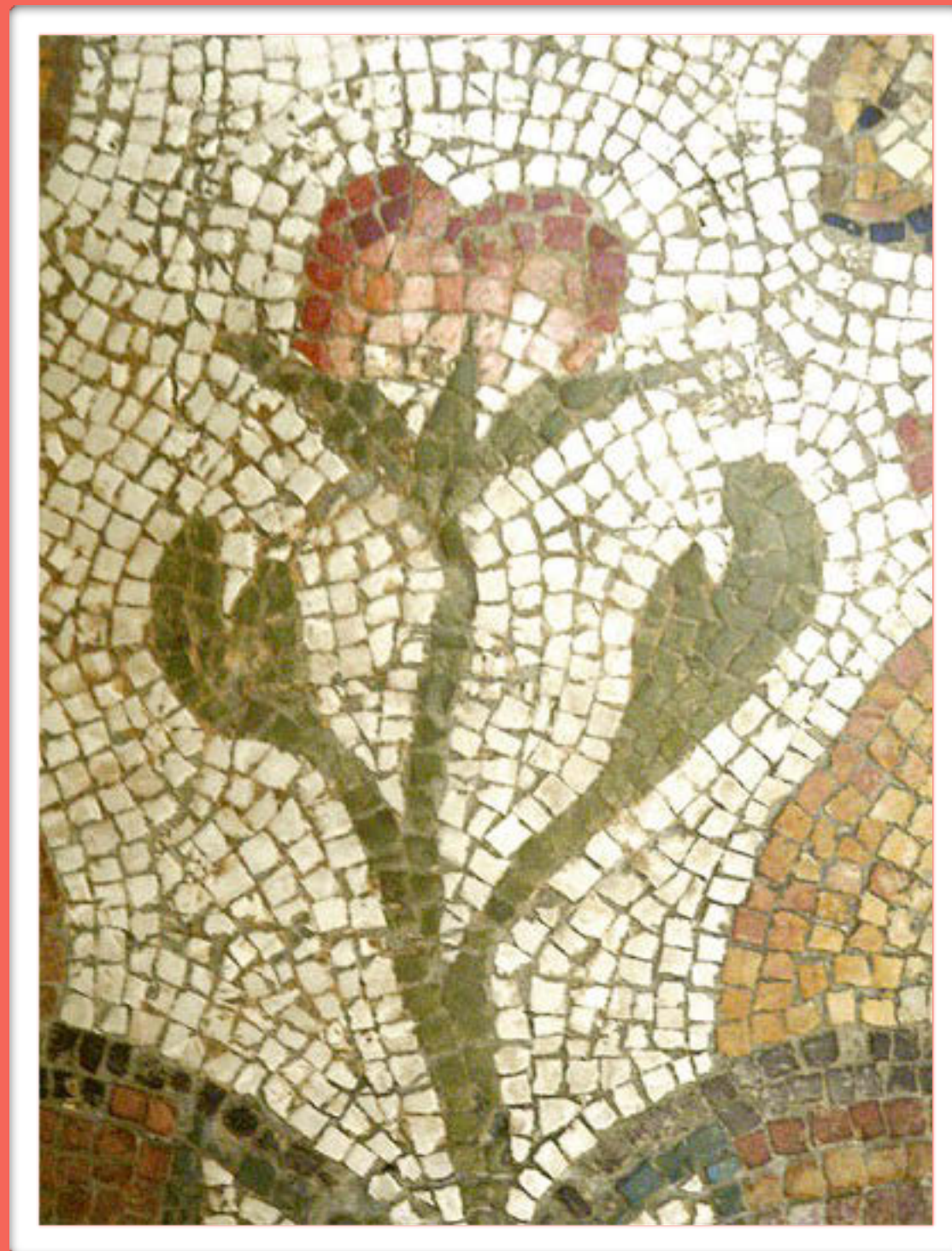
To be able to create a Roman mosaic.

Can you explain  
what a Roman  
mosaic is?

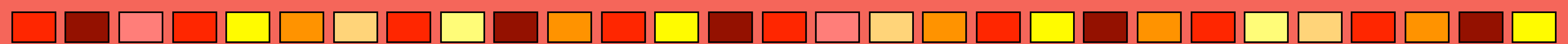


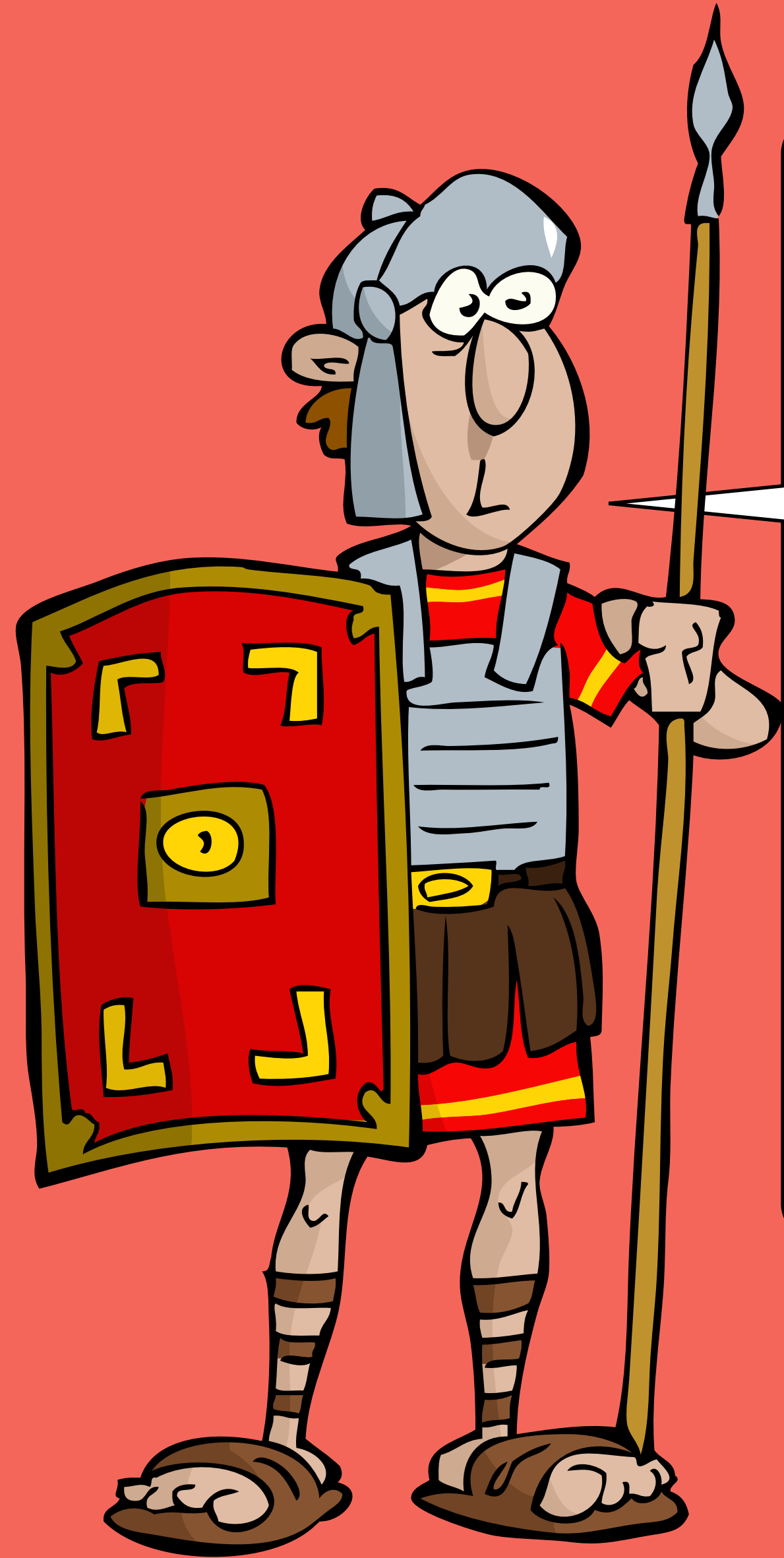


Romans loved to use mosaics for decoration, particularly on floors. Mosaics are made from tiny coloured stones called tesserae which are arranged to make different pictures and patterns. Tesserae were stuck to mortar (a kind of cement) to keep the stones in place.



Mosaics were used for lots of different purposes. Some were used to show how rich the owner was. Most mosaics could be bought ready-made but if you were rich you could have the mosaics made for you in your home and could be more personalised. Other mosaics were made to show important historical events. Lots of mosaics have been found from the Roman empire. There are over 2000 that have been found in Britain alone.





Have a look at the ancient Roman mosaics on the next slides. Think about which designs you like best and why.

What pictures and patterns can you spot in this mosaic?



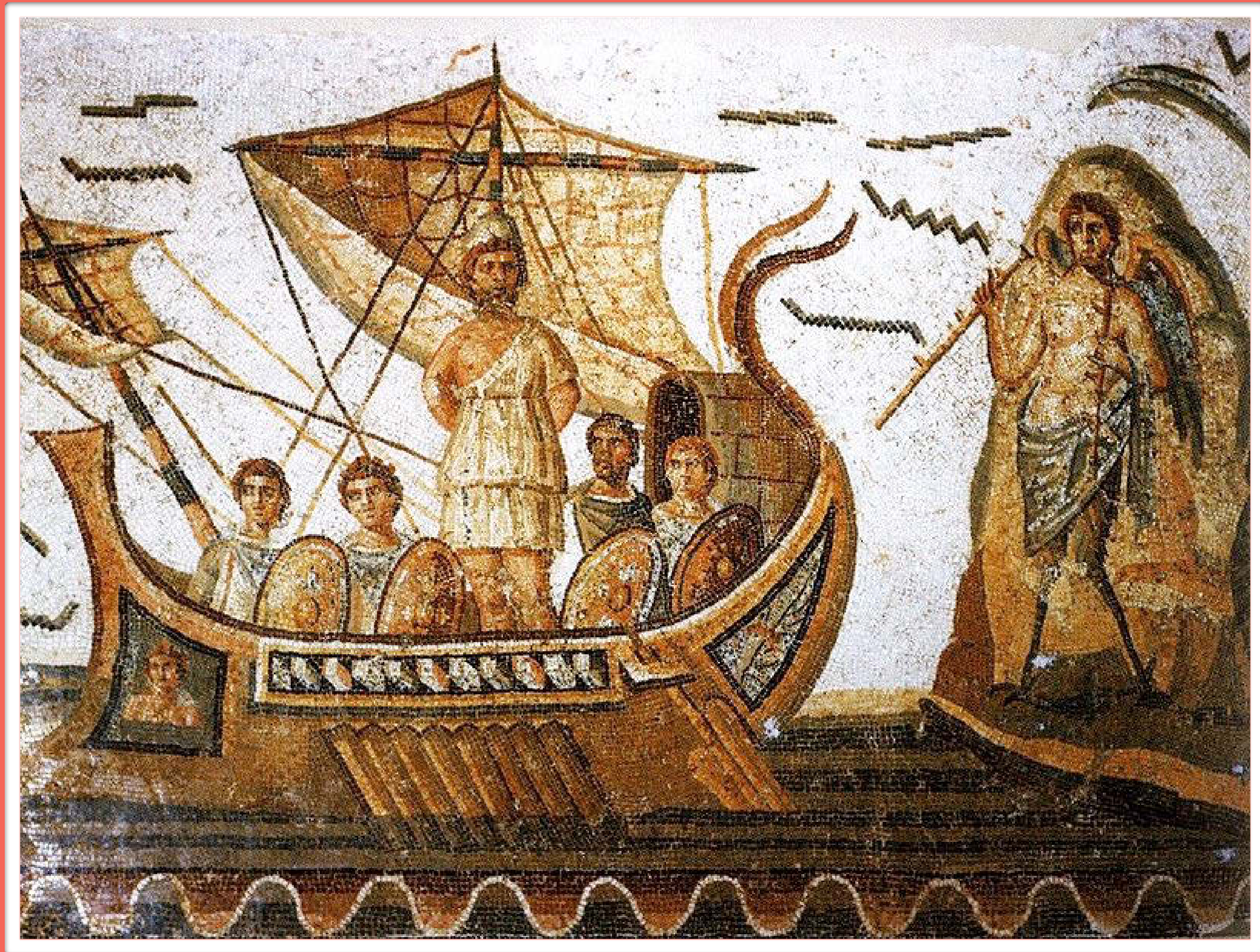
This mosaic shows the winner of a Roman chariot race.





This mosaic shows a geometric pattern. The Romans loved to include patterns like this in their mosaics.

This mosaic dates back to around 300 BC and shows Ulysses during the Odyssey.







There are lots of different shapes and patterns in this one. How many can you spot?



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The twisted patterns around each section is typical of many Roman mosaics.





This is a small section of a larger mosaic showing the twelve labours of Hercules.

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This mosaic  
was found in  
England and is  
known as the  
Blackfriars  
pavement.



Today you will be designing and making your own mosaic picture or pattern. What different ways could we make our mosaics?

Discuss your ideas.



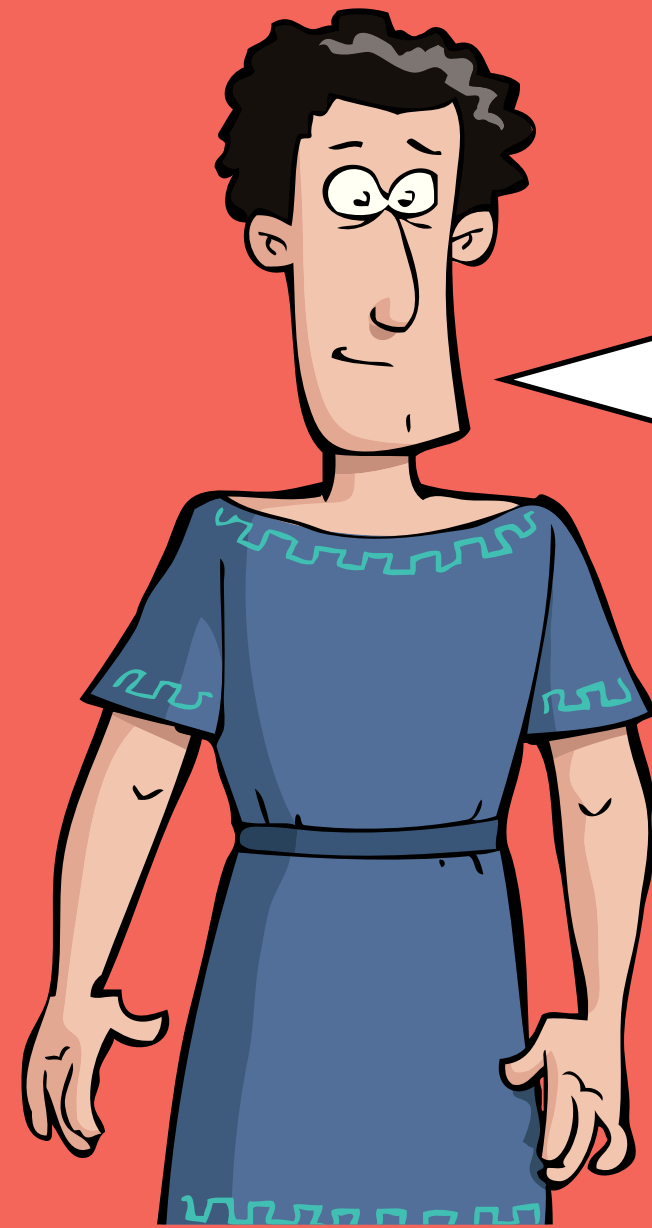
There are lots of different ways you could create mosaics.

You could use coloured stones or tiles as the Romans did. You can even make these yourself. Simply roll a thin sheet of clay, then cut and divide into squares. When they are dry, paint them any colours you want.

You can cut out squares of paper and arrange them into the mosaic picture or pattern you want. Sticky back paper is great for this because then you don't need glue.

Which of these methods will you use to make your mosaic?

You could try using finger painting by using a dot of paint for each tesserae. This is great for tricky patterns because it is easier to go round corners with a dot than a square tile.



There are lots of different types of mosaics you could create too.

You could create a mosaic with a geometric Roman pattern.

You could create a mosaic to show part of a Roman myth, such as Romulus and Remus.

You could create a mosaic with a modern pattern.

You could create a mosaic with your name or initials.

You could create a mosaic to show an aspect of Roman life, such as the baths or a gladiator battle.

You could create a modern mosaic to show an aspect of your own life.

What kind of mosaic do you think you would like to make?



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