

City of Bath World Heritage Site

Roman remains 18th activity – Monster Mosaics

Did you know?

The Romans arrived in Britain in AD43. Within 30 years they were fully settled in Bath. They considered the hot waters to have sacred powers and built a temple to worship Sulis Minerva, goddess of healing and wisdom, and a bath house for bathing. The walled Roman town of Aquae Sulis ('Waters of Sulis') grew up around the central temple and bath house and was continuously developed by the Romans until the 4th century when they started to leave.

Over the centuries that followed the baths and temple fell into disrepair and eventually became buried and built over. This is why the level of the Roman Baths (<https://www.romanbaths.co.uk/>) is so far below the modern street level.

The Victorians carried out large scale archaeology investigations which revealed the remains of the amazing baths and evidence of the temple.

Roman discoveries have been made across Bath. Outside the old walls Roman and earlier Iron Age remains include hill forts, field systems and villas. It must have been a bustling town.

The roads built by the Romans later influenced the Medieval and Georgian layout of the city that is familiar to us today.

Some of the more fancy houses (villas) and public buildings like the bath house had floors decorated with colourful mosaics made from very small tiles called tesserae arranged to show patterns and pictures.

Here is a mosaic on display at the Roman Baths . It is decorated with mythical sea beasts.

Why not have a go at making your own mosaics in the following activities?



Do share your creations with us. You can tweet us [@BathWHS](https://twitter.com/BathWHS) , send us a message on Facebook [BathWorldHeritageSite](https://www.facebook.com/BathWorldHeritageSite) or send us an email World_Heritage@bathnes.gov.uk.

We would love to see and hear how you got on.

Activity one – Monster Mosaic

You will need:

Scissors

Coloured paper or pages from magazines / catalogues in a range of colours

Pencil

Ruler

Sheet of plain paper

Glue stick

Instructions:



1. On your sheet of plain paper, lightly draw out the outline of your monster.

TIP: don't make it too detailed.



2. Using a pencil, ruler and scissors, cut out small squares of coloured paper from your paper or magazines to make 'tesserae'.

3. Using your Tesserae, start to fill in your monster mosaic. You may find it easier to start with the outlines. Stick down the tiles as you go.



4. Fill in the gaps and give your monster a name!

Activity two – outside mosaic

You will need:

Masking tape

Coloured chinks / pavement chinks

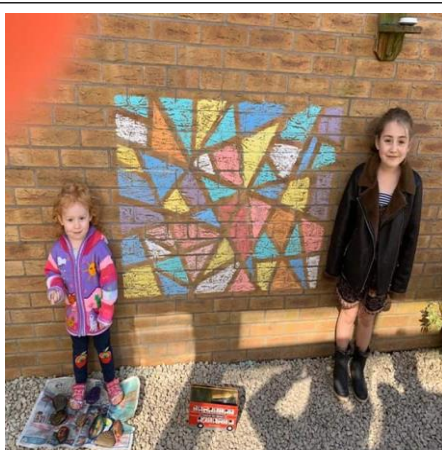
A wall / pavement suitable for chalking on (check with a grown-up)

Instructions:



1. Using lengths of masking tape, mark out an abstract grid on your wall or pavement

2. Fill in the design with coloured chinks. Can you avoid using two colours next to each other?



3. Once all of the segments have been filled in, carefully peel off the tape and stand back and admire your work. Why not take a picture and share it with us too?