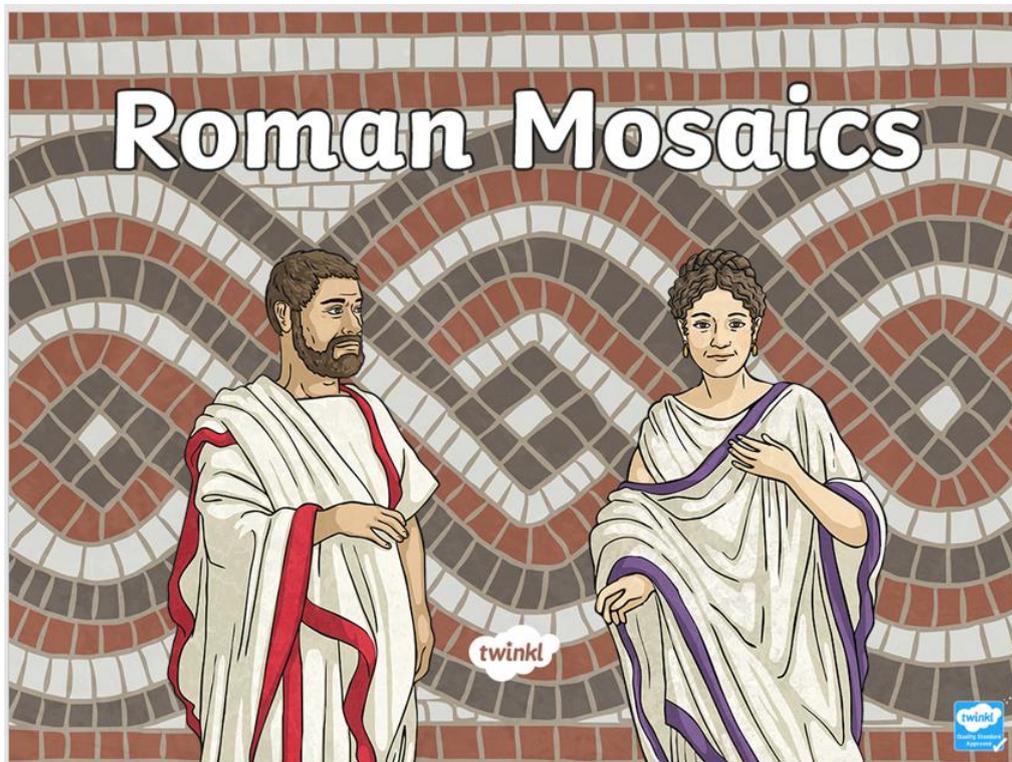


Year 3 and 4 Home Learning  
History (The Romans) Week 13  
Monday



**Mosaics**

The floors of Roman buildings were often richly decorated with mosaics. Mosaics were made from tiny coloured stones which they called tesserae.

Photography of mosaic: @tiktok: gregorio\_ortega\_ortega/instagram/albums

A photograph of an ancient Roman mosaic floor. The mosaic features a central diamond-shaped pattern made of small, light-colored tesserae. The floor is surrounded by a border of larger, red and grey tesserae. The overall appearance is aged and somewhat worn.

## Mosaics

Mosaics have been found that show scenes of history, as well as everyday Roman life.



Photo courtesy of [www.ancient.eu](#) (2016-2017). granted under creative commons license. visit: [http://www.ancient.eu](#)

## Mosaics

Mosaic floors were a statement of how wealthy and important you were. Poor people would not be able to afford them. The bigger and more detailed the mosaic, the more impressive.



Photo courtesy of [www.ancient.eu](#) (2016-2017). granted under creative commons license. visit: [http://www.ancient.eu](#)

## Mosaics

The mosaic would decorate the floor of the main room. These were stuck to the floor with mortar, a type of cement.



Each mosaic used thousands of pieces to make a pattern.

## Mosaics

The Greeks were the first to make mosaics. They started by using pebbles and then also began to use cut stone with pebbles.



The Romans copied their method but just used cut stone instead of pebbles. Villas and bath houses had mosaic floors and some office signs were even made of mosaics.

Temples and public areas usually had patterned floors made with the larger cut stone tiles, a method known as Opus Sectile.

## Mosaics

The Romans used a hammer and hardie to cut the stones to approximately 8-12mm. A hardie (on the left) is like a chisel, this would be stuck into a block of wood.



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## Mosaics

Some mosaics had pieces cut down to 1-2mm for very intricate patterns. This is the Alexander mosaic that you can still see today in Pompeii, Italy.



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Using the prompts on the next page, have a think about what it would be like if you were watching the *Gladiators* fight.

# Mosaics

Imagine the length of a metre stick, then a square metre. Just  $1\text{m}^2$  of mosaic on the floor might take 10 000 pieces of tesserae!

You don't see lots of bright colours in Roman mosaics. This is because they mainly used natural stones. The red, used particularly in Britain, was from cut brick or tile. Occasionally, they might use bits of glass for a particular effect.



## Mosaic Examples



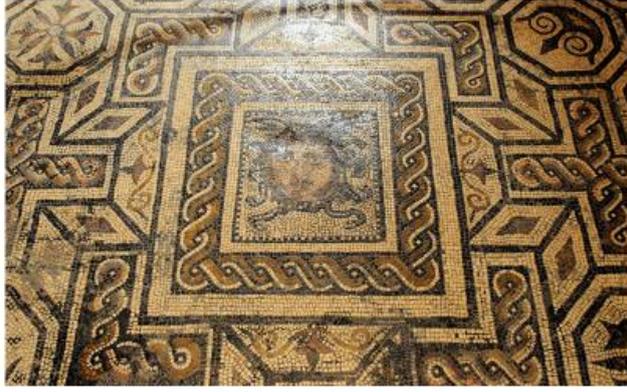
This mosaic is from San Apollinare Nuovo (5th century), painted with mosaic tesserae from Italy. © British Museum

## Mosaic Examples



This mosaic is from San Apollinare Nuovo (5th century), painted with mosaic tesserae from Italy. © British Museum

## Mosaic Examples



The mosaic of the floor of the Basilica of San Marco, Venice, Italy. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

## Mosaic Examples



The mosaic of the floor of the Basilica of San Marco, Venice, Italy. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Create your own mosaic using Purple Mash or the design sheets that are on the next few pages.

If you want to write using Purple Mash...



Click on



Then on

Then scroll down to row 7 and click on

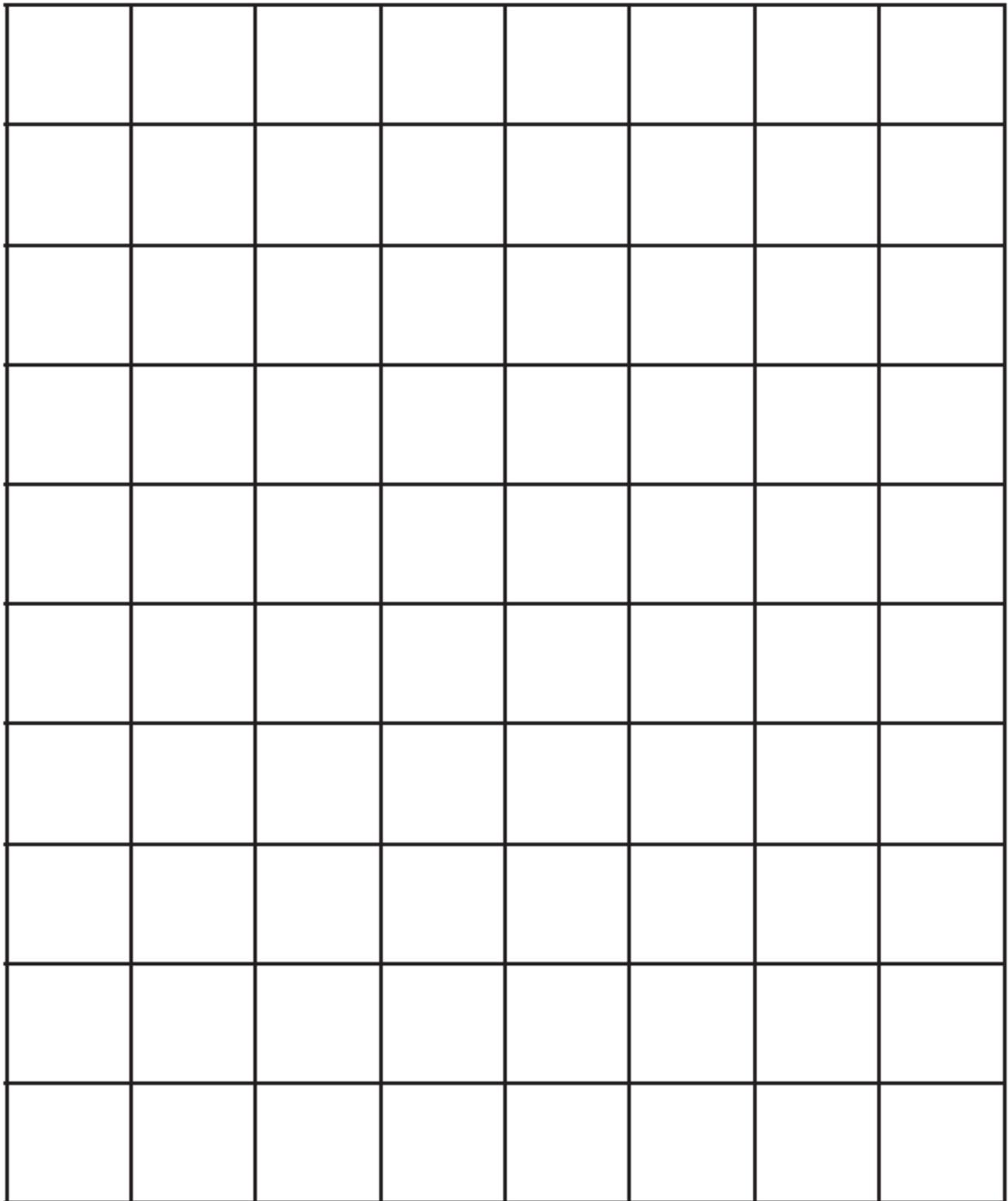


Finally, on row 4 click on



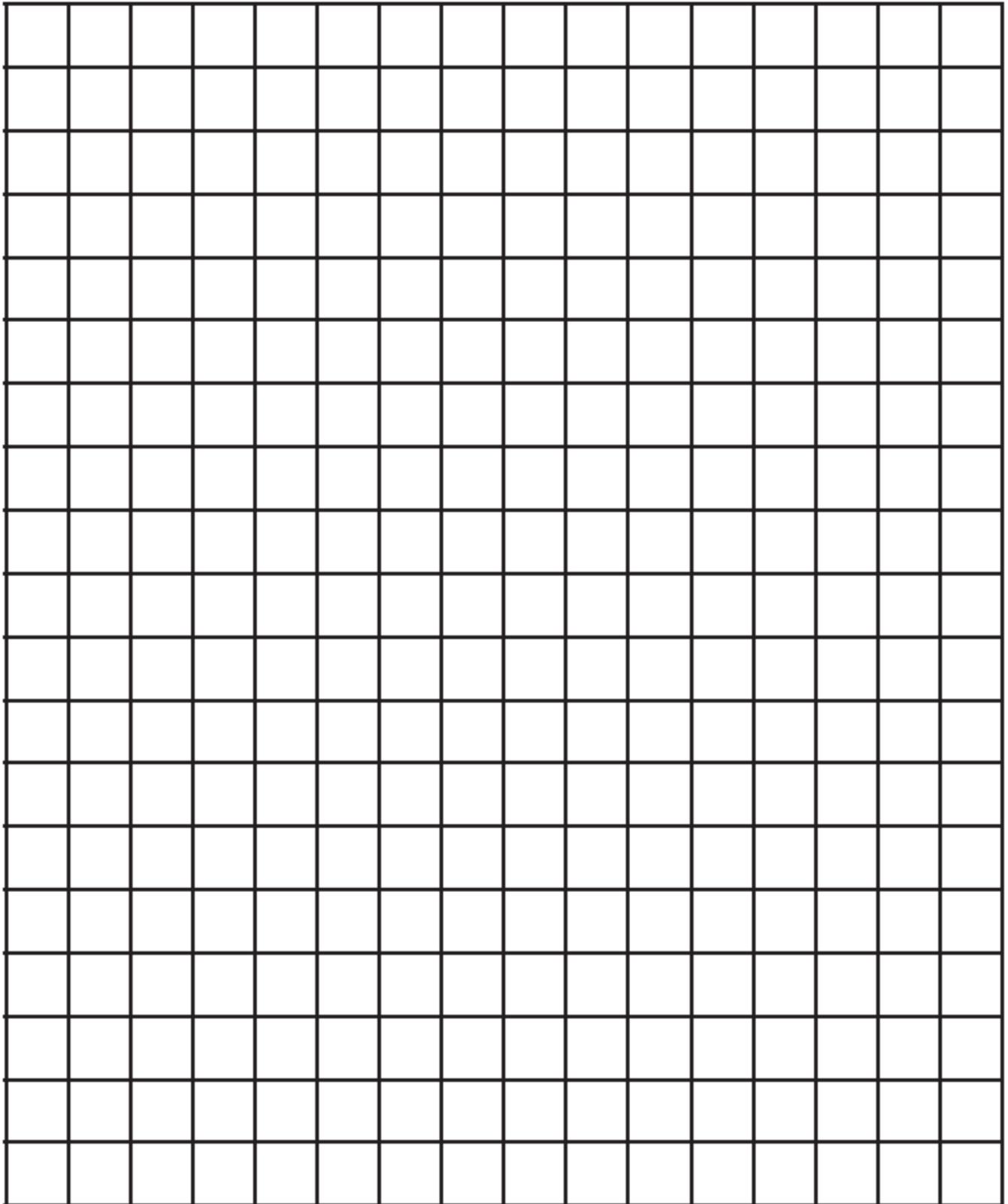
# Roman Mosaic Colouring Sheet

Colour in the tiles to create a pattern or a picture.



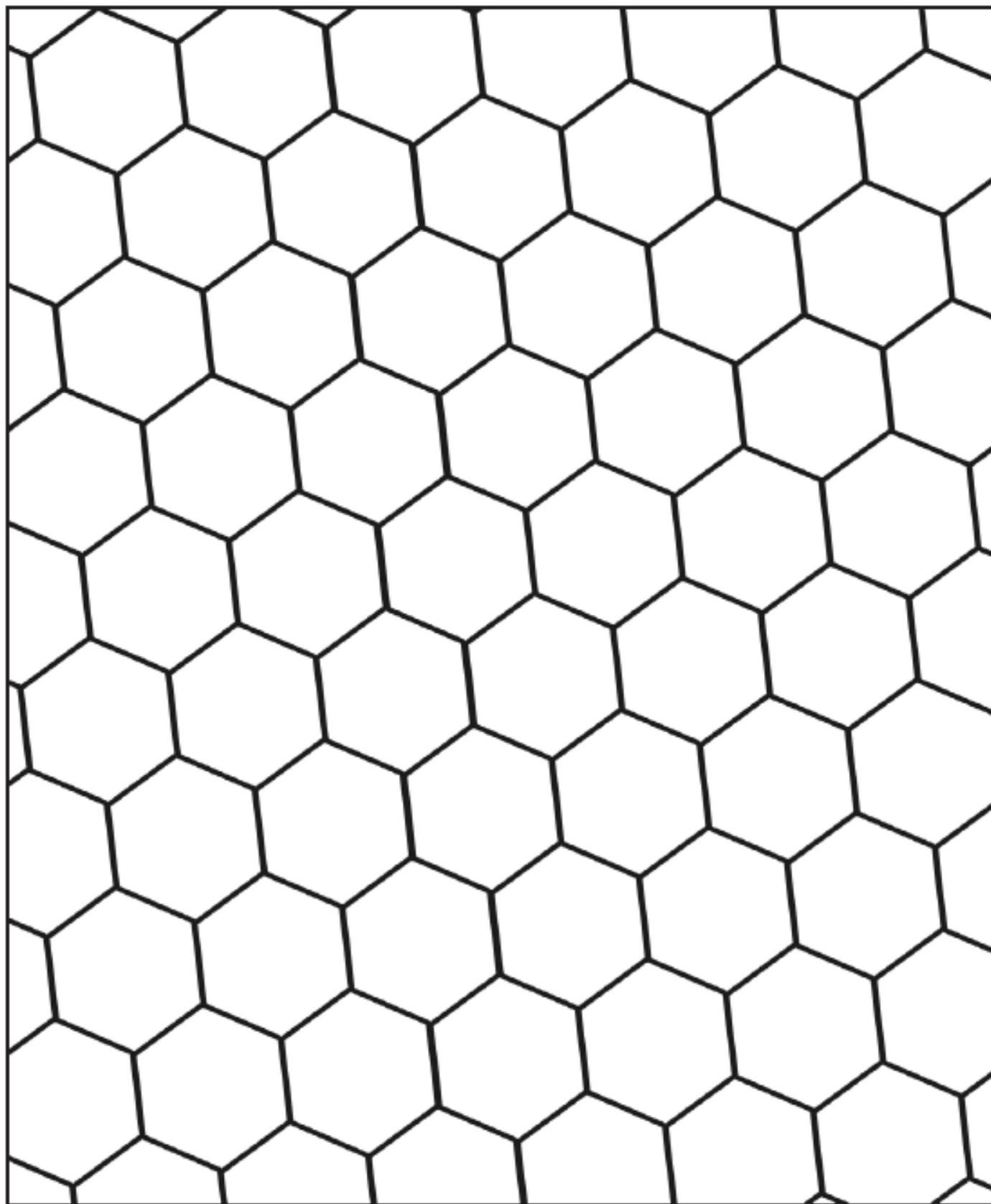
# Roman Mosaic Colouring Sheet

Colour in the tiles to create a pattern or a picture.



# Roman Mosaic Colouring Sheet

Colour in the tiles to create a pattern or a picture.



# Roman Mosaic Colouring Sheet

Colour in the tiles to create a pattern or a picture.

