

MAKING A MOSAIC

Look at the colors, patterns, and tones in this mosaic from Ravenna in Italy. It was made by pressing pieces of colored glass, marble, and stone into cement to make a large picture. You

can make your own mosaic using paper.

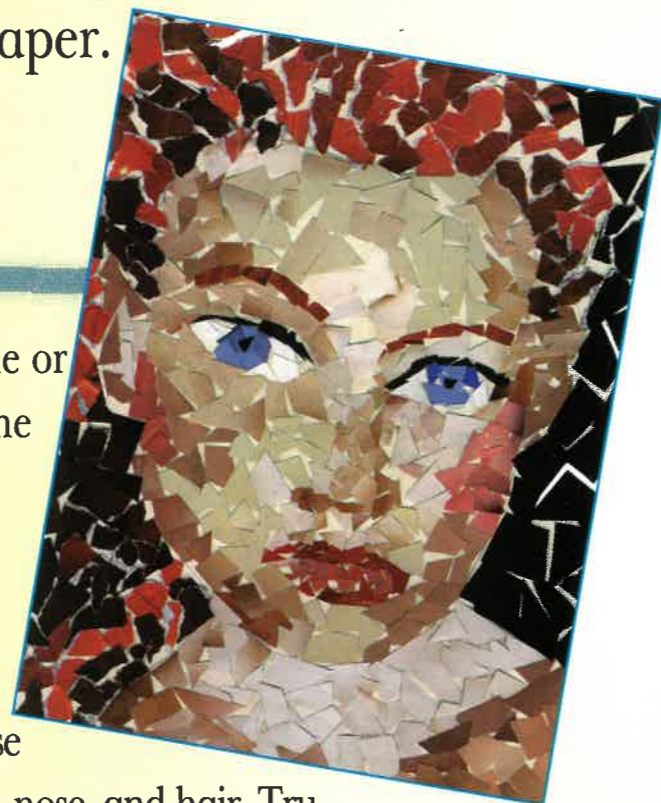
PROJECT: MOSAIC PORTRAIT

Step 1. Find a picture in a magazine or a photo of a friend. Draw an outline of the face on a piece of cardboard.

Step 2. Cut or tear lots of colored scraps of paper from magazines.

Choose colors that you can use to create a face, mouth, eyes, nose, and hair. Try to find lots of different tones of the same color.

Step 3. Glue the scraps to the cardboard to build up the face. When it is dry, paint over it with craft glue mixed with water as a varnish.



GALLERY

The Empress Theodora with Her Retinue c.547
RAVENNA, ITALY

COLOR

Look at the wonderfully rich colors used for this mosaic. Small pieces of bright glass were the main material used.

MATERIALS

Semiprecious stones were used in the mosaic to make Empress Theodora's beautiful jewelry.



DETAIL

Many pieces were used to create each face. They are so well done that from a distance they look like a painting.

PATTERNS

How many different patterns are there? They show how important she was.

This mosaic is almost fifteen hundred years old. Many churches used mosaics to tell Bible stories.

The artist for this mosaic is unknown, but the mosaics in Ravenna are probably the most famous in the world. This one shows the Roman Empress Theodora bringing gifts to the church.