

Key Learning

A mosaic is an image created by assembling small pieces of marble, ceramics, glass or other materials.

Most mosaics are made of small square shaped tiles, known as tesserae.

The Romans used mosaics to decorate walls, floors and ceilings.

The tesserae can be placed in different formations of rows and columns.

Key Questions:-

Where is Pompeii?

What was the purpose of the sea creature mosaic?

What were the mosaics made out of?

What creatures were drawn?

What colours were used?

What shape were the tiles?

How were they arranged?

How do these mosaics help us to understand life in Pompeii in the second century BC?

ROSES Years 3/4/5 Mosaic making: Pompeii Mosaics SPR 1st half 24



Mordia CE Primary School

Facts



Above: Pompeii

The **House of the Faun** was built in the second century BC. It is the largest and most decorative house in **Pompeii**. It is an excellent example of aristocratic life in the Roman era. This house gives us an insight into the lives and interests of the **aristocrats** in Rome at that time.

Within the house, archaeologists discovered elaborate decorations and mosaics that were preserved after the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, which occurred in AD79. Although many artefacts and artworks were discovered, the most significant findings were the remains of the human inhabitants that had been frozen in time.

The Anonymous Sea Creature mosaic informs us of the **marine** food that was available at that time. It was part of a central panel on the floor and was like a menu for visitors to the House of Faun. The mosaic has an octopus at its centre, wrapping its tentacles around a crayfish, and there are squid and eels around it. There is a small bird on a rock towards the left of the mosaic.

Key Vocabulary

Andamento	The visual flow of a mosaic
Aristocrats	A privileged class of people
Marine	Found in the sea
Opus palladianum	A design where the tesserae vary in size and shape and are placed haphazardly
Opus regulatum	A design where the tesserae form a regular grid pattern
Pompeii	An ancient city in Italy that was buried and preserved by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius
Tesserae	Small pieces of a material used to make a mosaic

The Anonymous Sea Creature mosaic shows a range of shades and tints which help to make the image more realistic.

Mosaics can be made using different techniques related to the formation of the **tesserae**.

The visual flow of the tesserae is known as the **andamento**.

Mosaics come in different styles, such as **opus regulatum** and **opus palladianum**.

Famous work

The Anonymous Sea Creature 1st Century AD.



More mosaics found in Pompeii:

