

Tessellations: Cut and Paste

Tessellations are an arrangement of shapes closely fitted together, especially of polygons in a repeated pattern without gaps or overlapping. -Oxford Dictionary

Tessellations can be found in nature ([honeycombs](#)), art ([M. C. Escher](#)), and even quilts! Regular tessellations can be made from triangles, squares, and pentagons. This activity uses a square as the basis of creating your own tessellation.

Supplies:

- A few sheets of cardstock of contrasting colors
- A pencil
- A pair of scissors
- Glue
- A ruler is optional



Directions:

1. Cut a square out of cardstock. Here, we used a 3 x 3-inch square cut out of cardstock.
2. Draw and cut a shape out of one side of the square.
3. Place the cut piece on the side opposite of where the shape was removed. Use tape to attach the cut piece back onto the square.
4. Use the newly-created shape as a template to create a tessellation. Trace the shape repeatedly onto a piece of colored paper, taking care not to leave spaces between each shape.
5. Repeat the same process on a piece of paper of a contrasting color.
6. Cut out the shapes from one of the pieces of paper. Glue these shapes onto the other piece of paper in alternating positions to create your tessellation.

