



## Lesson: A Mosaic in Pieces

**Artform:** Visual Art

**Skill Level:** Low

**Teaching Artist:** Alana Da Costa

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Explore and learn mosaic
- Choose your favorite mosaic and explain what you like about it

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Mosaics are pictures made with tiny pieces of colored tiles or stones. Some artists even use glass or broken tiles and other objects. Some ancient buildings and walls are decorated with mosaics that took nearly 5 years or more to complete. Look at the ancient mosaic in the Sanctuary of San Vitale. Notice the tiny colored tiles. How many different colors can you find? What figures do the tiles create? Now look up a modern mosaic. Compare the modern mosaic with the ancient mosaic. How are they different? In what ways are they the same?

**Resources:** Mosaics from Sanctuary of San Vitale, Ravenna, Italy A.D. 526-47

With your parents approval, look online for any modern mosaic used to decorate walls and floors.

### MATERIALS

- Background paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Construction Paper or magazine pictures to cut up (with parental permission)
- Coloring Picture from a coloring book or printed from online (optional)

### ACTIVITIES

1 - Think about the picture or design you want to create. You can draw your favorite flower, car or create a self portrait on your background paper. You can also use a page from a coloring book or print out a coloring sheet or your favorite design from the internet. See pages 3 and 4 for sample images.

2 - Decide on the colors you will use. With parental permission and/or supervision, cut or tear colored construction paper or colored magazine pictures into tiny pieces.

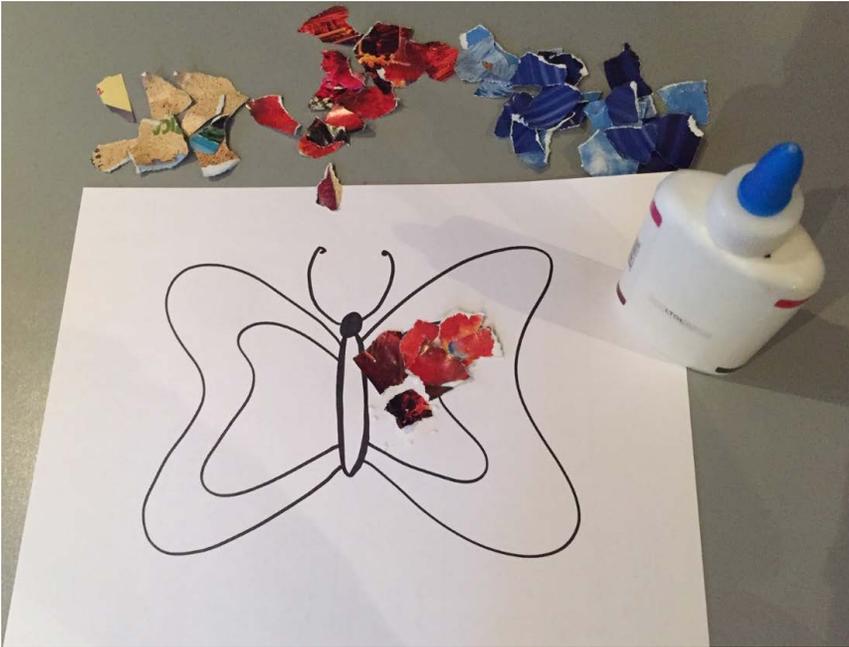
3 - Sort the pieces by color. Keep all the red pieces together, all the blue pieces together and so on. Have enough colors to cover your drawing, design or coloring sheet. The colors may be different types of red, that is okay, or different types of blue. Mosaics are made with similar colors, they do not have to all be exactly the same. See example below.

4 - Glue the tiny pieces of colored paper (or magazine) as you arrange them on the background. Be sure to leave very little space between the pieces of colored paper.

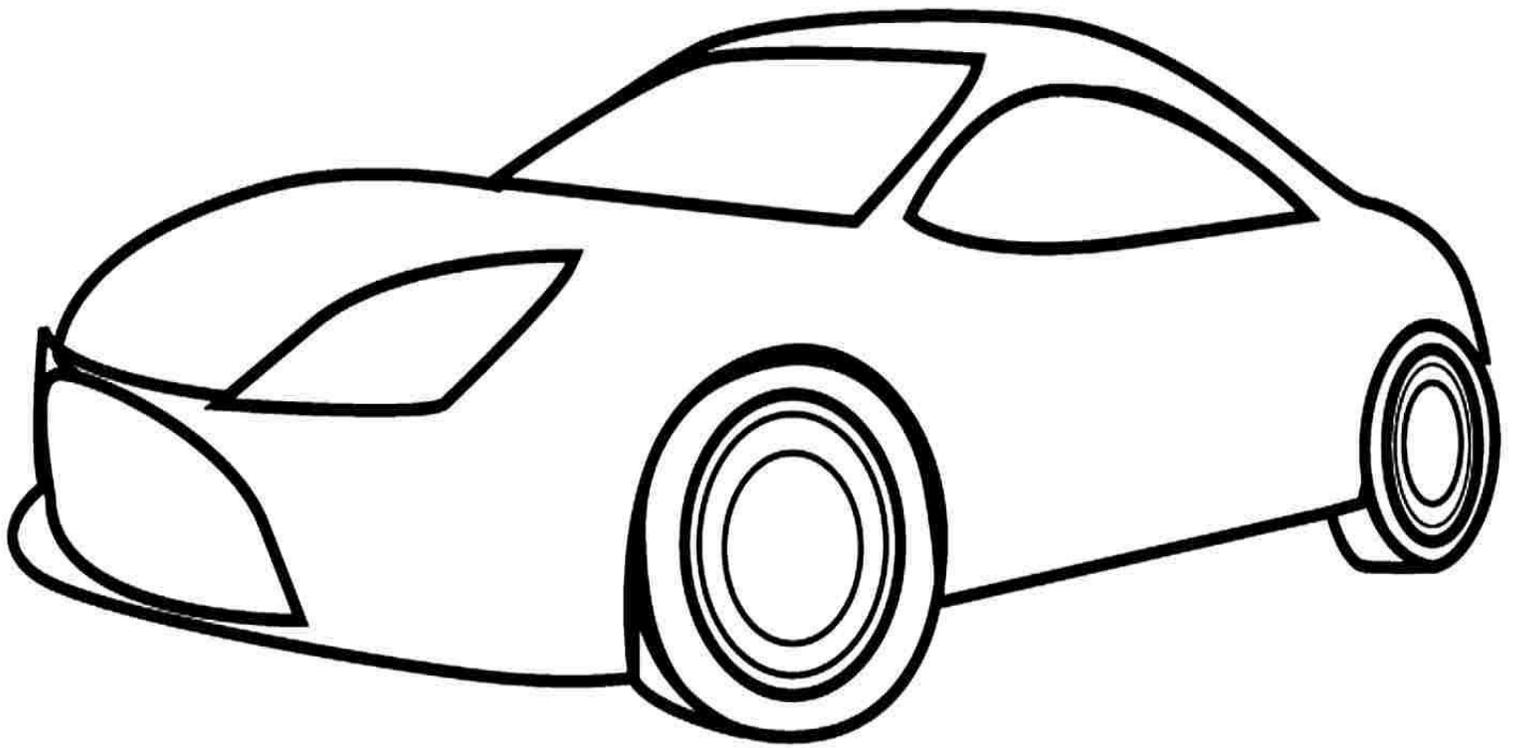
5 – Now you have created your own mosaic. Stand back and look at how your eye blends the colors together to create the image you started with.

**ACCOMMODATIONS FOR INCLUDING ALL CHILDREN**

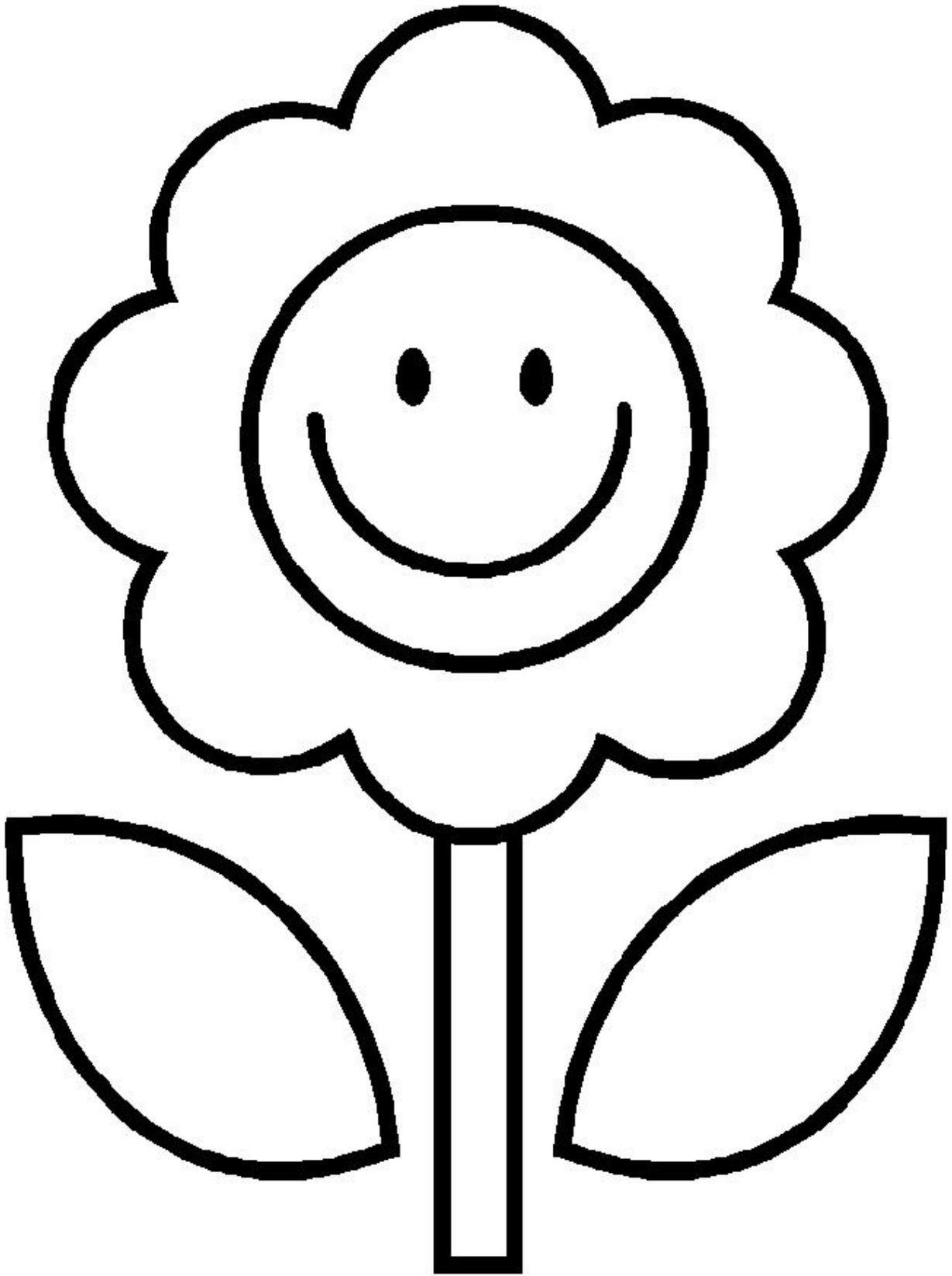
- Hand over hand assistance for children who have issues with fine motor skills.



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(In Pieces SAMPLE Drawing)



(In Pieces SAMPLE Drawing)