

# Pattern Play

Create a work of art using a pattern of flat shapes.



## WHAT YOU NEED:

- A blank piece of paper
- Pencil
- Markers or crayons

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

You are making regular tessellations! A regular tessellation is created when something is covered in a repeating flat shape with no spaces or overlaps. Most tessellations are made using regular polygons, which are shapes made of straight lines where all sides are the same length. Triangles, squares and hexagons (six-sided shapes) are examples of regular polygons. You can also make semi-regular tessellations which combine two or more regular polygons. Can you make a new tessellation paper that uses both triangles and squares? Remember that you want to fill the paper as much as you can without spaces or overlaps.

## HOW TO:

1. Decide if you would like to draw triangles or squares.
2. Draw your first shape with a pencil wherever you want on your paper.
3. Draw the shape again using one of the sides of your first square or triangle as a side of the new shape.
4. Repeat this pattern over and over until your page is filled as much as possible.
5. Make sure you don't leave any spaces and your shapes don't overlap. They should share sides, though.
6. Color in your squares or triangles however you'd like. Can you follow a pattern with how you color in your shapes as well?

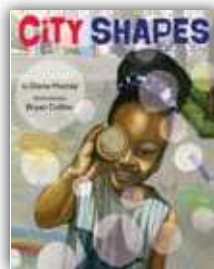
## FUN FACT

Dutch Graphic Artist M.C. Escher can be regarded as the "father of modern tessellation" in art. He was a master of wood cuts and produced many superbly crafted tessellations in his vast body of work.

Related Books:



*Pitter Pattern*  
by Joyce Hesselberth



*City Shapes*  
by Diana Murray



*Bracelets for Bina's Brothers*  
by Rajani LaRocca

Scan this code to open a guide you can print and use for drawing new patterns!

