



**TILING FOR YOUNG CHILDREN**

The elephant can be tiled with L shapes.  
Which tetrominoes can you use to tile the penguin and the robot giant?

5

**ESCHER MATHS & ART**

We are going to do **TESSELLATION** activities.

**Maurits Cornelius Escher** (1898 - 1972) was a Dutch graphic artist who made mathematically inspired woodcuts, lithographs, and mezzotints.

His work explored **TESSELLATION**, that is the filling of space by regularly repeating patterns.

He was greatly influenced by the Islamic art that he saw in Spain which was brought there from North Africa.

6

**ESCHER MATHS, ART & ALHAMBRA**

**TILING FROM ALHAMBRA**

At the Alhambra Palace in Granada, Spain, Escher saw all 17 patterns that fill two-dimensional space (the wallpaper patterns).

Islamic art provides evidence of the sophisticated culture of the Moors in Spain in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, who had a good knowledge of mathematics.

**INSIDE ALHAMBRA PALACE**

**EXAMPLES OF ESCHER'S ART**

7

**FRIEZE PATTERNS**

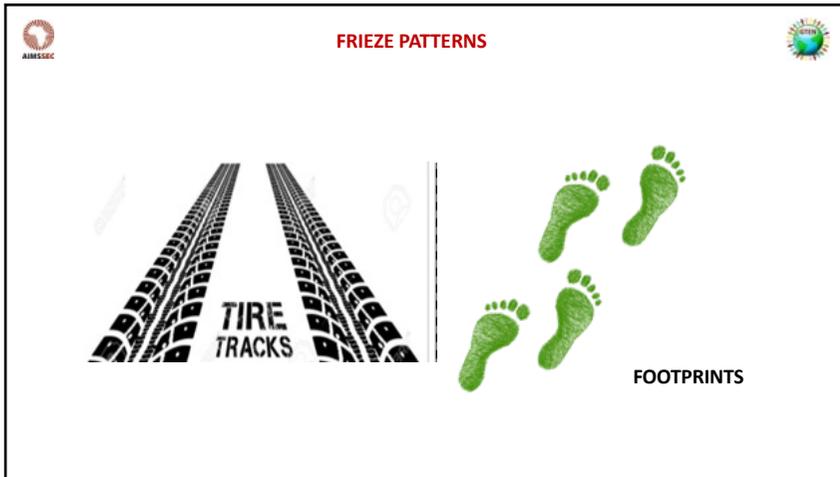
8



9



10



11

**7 FRIEZE PATTERNS**

It can be proved that there are only 7 ways that transformations can be combined to give frieze patterns.

There are countless different motifs (for example, motifs could be letters of the alphabet)

The transformations involved define the patterns, **not the motifs.**

	pppppppp
	dbdbdbdb
	HHHHHHHH
	EEEEEEEEEE
	pbpbpbpb
	pdpdpdpd
	pqbdpqbd

12

FRIEZE PATTERNS

pppppppp frieze pattern

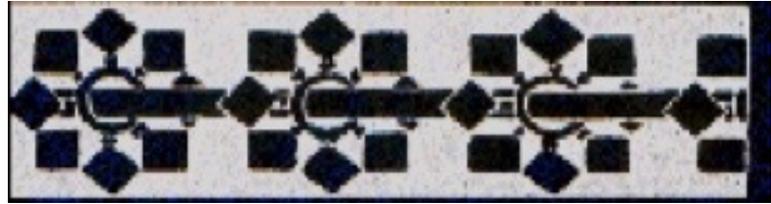


Repeated by **TRANSLATIONS**

13

FRIEZE PATTERNS

EEEEEEEE frieze pattern



Repeated by **TRANSLATIONS** and **REFLECTION IN A HORIZONTAL MIRROR LINE**

14

FRIEZE PATTERNS

dbdbdbdb frieze pattern

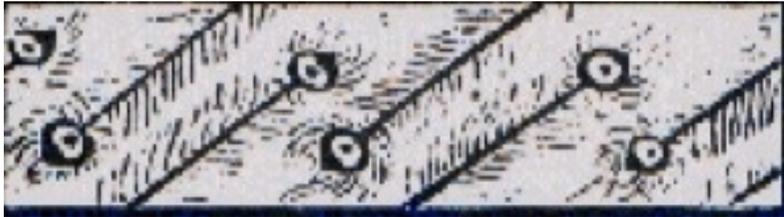


Repeated by **TRANSLATIONS** and **REFLECTIONS IN A VERTICAL MIRROR LINE**

15

FRIEZE PATTERNS

pdpdpdpd frieze pattern



Repeated by **TRANSLATIONS** and **ROTATIONS**

16

**FRIEZE PATTERNS**

## HHHHHHHH frieze pattern



Repeated by **TRANSLATIONS, REFLECTION IN HORIZONTAL & VERTICAL MIRROR LINES** and **ROTATIONS**

17

**HAPPY MATHS HOUR \* FRIEZE PATTERNS**

## pbpbpbpb frieze pattern



Repeated by **TRANSLATIONS, GLIDE (FOOTSTEPS) REFLECTIONS** and **ROTATIONS**

18

**HAPPY MATHS HOUR \* FRIEZE PATTERNS**

## pqbdpqbd frieze pattern



Repeated by **TRANSLATIONS, REFLECTION IN VERTICAL MIRROR LINES, GLIDE (FOOTSTEPS) REFLECTIONS** and **ROTATIONS**

19

**Tessellations and Tilings**

Tessellations by M C Escher



Tiling is a covering of the plane by copies of a geometric shape with no overlaps or gaps.

Tessellation is a special case of tiling that fills space with a **regularly repeating** pattern.

20

### THE 17 WALLPAPER PATTERNS TESSELLATIONS OF THE PLANE

1924Polya **There are 230 different crystal structures in 3D.**

21

### TESSELLATION & TILING

What do you see in this picture?  
 It has been drawn by hand but let's assume that all the bulls' heads are identical but not symmetrical.  
 Imagine adding another bull's head, and another.  
 Could this pattern go on to cover a large wall, and beyond that?  
 What do you notice about the orange and green lines?  
 Do the lines help you to imagine the pattern repeating itself?

22

### TESSELLATION & TILING

On squared paper, draw a tessellation made with the H shape.  
 Can you see how to make the pattern using a half-H shape?  
 Can you see how to make the pattern using a quarter-H shape?  
 Join the dots. What do you notice?

23

### TESSELLATION & TILING \* TRANSLATION & REFLECTION

These two tessellations are based on repeating a parallelogram by translations.  
 The H-tessellation could be based on reflection of a half-H (in the dotted line) followed by parallel translations or it could be based on rotations and reflections of a quarter-H followed by translations.

24

### TESSELLATION & TILING H-PUZZLE

Cut an H shape into 5 pieces as shown.  
Use the 5 pieces to make a parallelogram.

25

### What is a reptile?

This reptile is called **The Sphinx**.

A reptile is a shape that can be dissected into smaller identical copies of the same shape.

Identical copies of a reptile can be put together to make an **enlargement** of the shape with linear scale factor 2 and area scale factor 4

The Sphinx can be made up of 4 smaller copies of itself so it is called a rep-4.

26

### POLYOMINOES

Polyominoes are shapes made up of squares. Here are some examples.

DOMINO

TRIOMINO

TETROMINO

PENTOMINO

HEXOMINO

TESSELLATION OF SEPTOMINOES

The table shows the total number of each type.  
Can you find them all?  
Which pentominoes tessellate?  
Which pentominoes are reptiles?

Name	Number of variations
	1
Domino	1
Triomino	2
Tetromino	5
Pentomino	12
Hexomino	35

27

### PENTOMINO PUZZLE

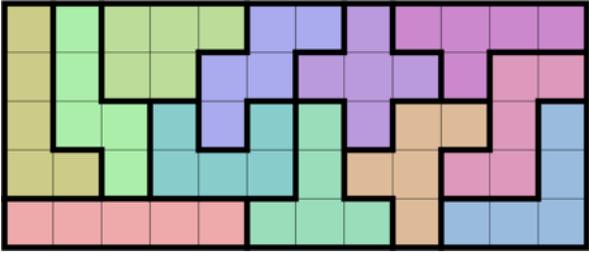
Make all 12 pentominoes and use them to make a rectangle.

Start with 3 pentominoes and complete the rectangle.  
Each piece of the jig-saw is a different shape.

28

### Pentomino Puzzle

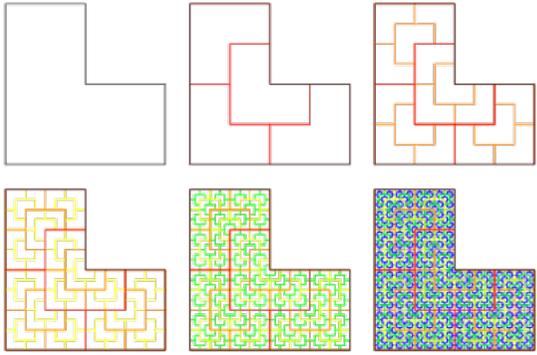
The solution to the pentomino puzzle.  
Cut out the pieces, mix them, then solve the puzzle.



Which of these pentominoes are reptiles?

29

### Reptiles and Fractals \* Triomino or Trisquare

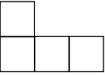


Making smaller copies of the shape inside every copy of the shape, and repeating this process infinitely often, produces a fractal.

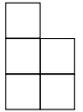
The diagrams show stages 0 to 5 of the fractal process based on the shape made up of 3 squares.

30

### Polyomino Reptile Fractals



A tetromino



A pentomino

Put 4 copies of these shapes together to make enlarged copies of the same shape.

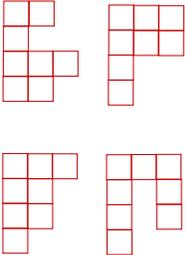
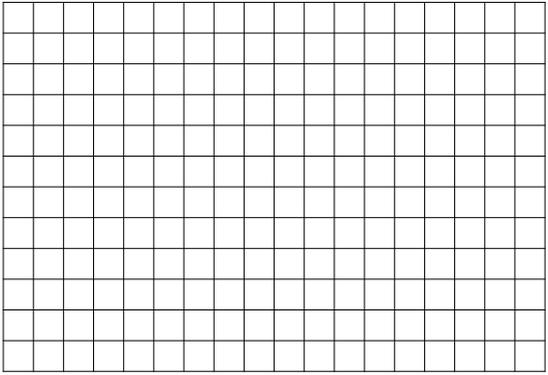
This can be repeated again and again, infinitely often to produce a fractal.



31

### Four different Octomino Reptiles

Can you make 4 tessellations with these octominoes?

32

**Reptile Trapezia \* all rep-4s**

Fill in 4 smaller similar copies of the same shape inside each tetrahedron.

The image shows three trapezoids. The first is a right-angled trapezoid with a vertical left side and a horizontal top side. The second is an isosceles trapezoid. The third is a general trapezoid. Below each trapezoid is a diagram showing it divided into four smaller, similar trapezoids of the same shape, demonstrating its self-similarity.

33

**Selection of Reptiles**

Can you spot a rep-2?

And some rep-9s?

How would you classify the other reptiles?

In some tilings (e.g. the 2 fish) the shapes intersect but still fill the plane without gaps or overlapping.

The image displays a variety of colorful tilings made from reptiles. Some are simple squares or triangles, while others are more complex, like the '2 fish' tiling where shapes overlap. Arrows point from the text to specific examples in the collection.

By MagistraMundi - CC BY-SA 3.0

34

**Sierpinski Triangle Reptile fractal construction**

3 stage 5 triangles like this make the stage 6 Sierpinski triangle.

The image shows a large Sierpinski triangle fractal on the left and a smaller one on the right. The smaller one is composed of three stage 5 triangles, illustrating how the fractal is constructed by repeating a self-similar pattern.

35

**Create your own Escher type tilings**

Cut a piece from one edge of a square (or parallelogram) and attach it to the opposite edge. This can be done on both pairs of opposite edges. If you do this on card then you can use it as a template and draw around it to create a tessellation.

Be creative with your design. Perhaps turn the shape into a cat or fish or ...

The image shows three examples of shapes created by cutting a piece from one edge of a square and attaching it to the opposite edge. The first is a simple square. The second is a square with a notch on the top edge and a protrusion on the bottom edge. The third is a square with a notch on the top edge and a protrusion on the bottom edge, shaped like a cat's head.

36



**Watch recordings of GTEN workshops on the AIMSSEC YouTube channel**  
<https://youtube.com/c/mathstoys>



**DAILY MATHS STARTER AIMSSEC Facebook**  
<https://facebook.com/aimssecsa>



**REPTILES & FRACTALS RESOURCES ON THE AIMING HIGH TEACHER NETWORK**

<b>Fractals Collection</b>	<a href="https://aiminghigh.aimssec.ac.za/30-minute-fractals.../">https://aiminghigh.aimssec.ac.za/30-minute-fractals.../</a>
<b>Trisquares</b>	<a href="https://aiminghigh.aimssec.ac.za/trisquares/">https://aiminghigh.aimssec.ac.za/trisquares/</a>
<b>Enlargement</b>	<a href="https://aiminghigh.aimssec.ac.za/enlargement/">https://aiminghigh.aimssec.ac.za/enlargement/</a>
<b>Tessellating Triangles</b>	<a href="https://aiminghigh.aimssec.ac.za/tessellating-triangles/">https://aiminghigh.aimssec.ac.za/tessellating-triangles/</a>
<b>Tessellating Quadrilaterals</b>	<a href="https://aiminghigh.aimssec.ac.za/tessellating-quadrilaterals/">https://aiminghigh.aimssec.ac.za/tessellating-quadrilaterals/</a>
<b>Tessellation and Tiling</b>	<a href="https://aiminghigh.aimssec.ac.za/tessellation-and-tiling/">https://aiminghigh.aimssec.ac.za/tessellation-and-tiling/</a>

37



**AIMS**  
African Institute for Mathematical Sciences  
 SCHOOLS ENRICHMENT CENTRE





Thanks for coming to this workshop.

Use the AIMSSEC ideas on AIMING HIGH and add comments.

Share what you have learned with other teachers.

Try to help all your learners to have a

**‘YES I CAN’**  
attitude to mathematics.

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38