

## Magical Mathematical Art

An activity of "Creating magical art from mathematics".

Read the article, "Creating magical art from mathematics" (pages 14-15, *What's Up* October 2025). Work on this activity in pairs or threes.

1. Look carefully at Escher's artworks featured in the article.

1a) Pick out two things that look realistic and describe why.

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1b) Pick out two things that are impossible in real life and describe why.

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1c) Here are some mathematical ideas. Tick  the ones which Escher used in his art to trick our eyes. Discuss with your partner how he did it.

- Shapes/ Geometry/ Tessellations – putting shapes together
- Repetition – repeating patterns
- Symmetry – mirror reflections
- Rotation – turning shapes around a centre
- Transformation – changing one shape into another
- Infinity – shrinking or repeating something forever
- Perspective / Illusion – making 2D (flat things) look 3D

2a) Watch this video:

**How to Make MC Escher Tessellations - Art Project Easy for Kids**

➤ <https://youtube/z0gZVZw7DXs?si=rfMNTGQi8gPrNgEi>

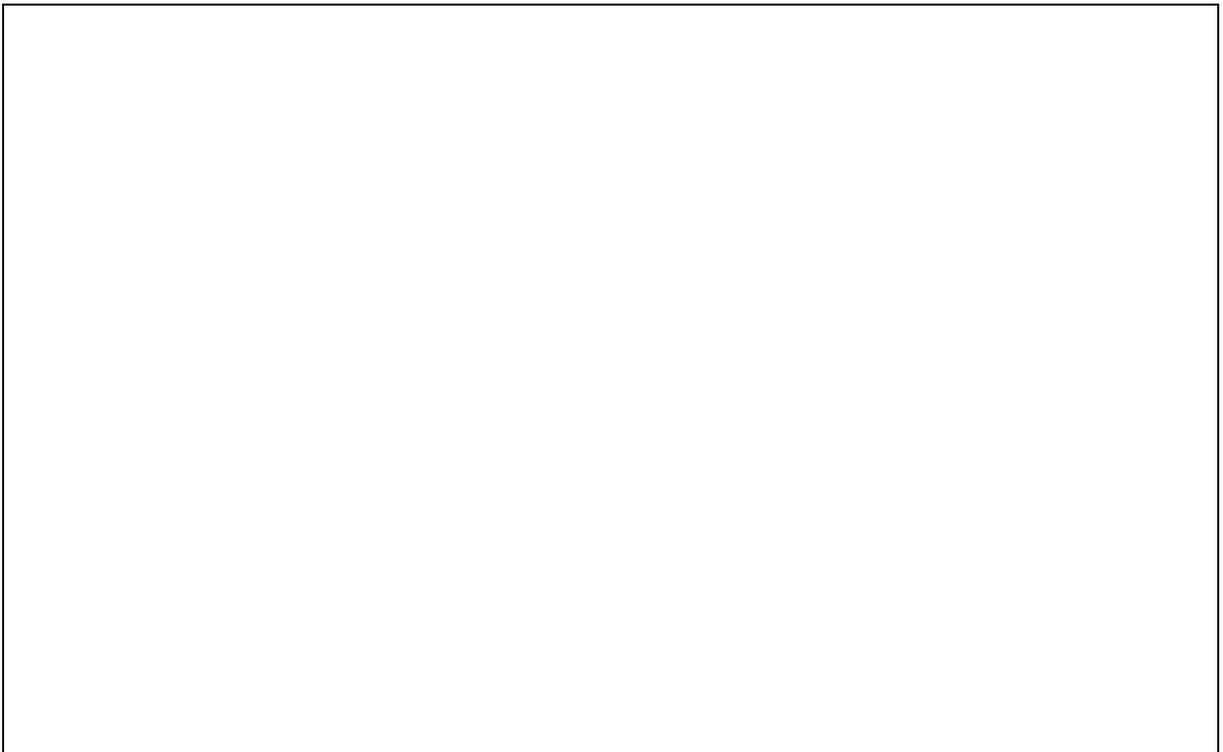
(Mr. Schuette's - Art Class, 15 April 15, 2021)

2b) Now, create your own unique tessellation art like Escher did, following the instructions in the video. You will need a square card, scissors, and tape.

2c) Trace your stencil below three times to test your pattern and see if your tessellation fits seamlessly. Does your shape resemble any object, animal or person?



2d) Pick any one of the mathematical ideas mentioned earlier to develop your tessellation into an artwork. For example, you can mirror the shapes, rotate them, or make them smaller. Sketch your final idea here:



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2e) Write a one-sentence caption under your artwork to describe what mathematical idea it shows. For example, "A rotation of birds spiralling endlessly into the sun."

3. Present your work in a mini class exhibition.