

# A Pattern of Contrast

## Learning goals:

1. To be able to identify a pattern in a given work of art

2. To be able to identify and show contrast in a work of art

3. To creatively develop non-representational shapes into recognizable objects

## The Assignment:

**DESCRIPTION:** A tessellation is a potentially endless repeated pattern made up of one or more shapes that fit together like puzzle pieces with no gaps or overlaps. Squares and other quadrilaterals, triangles, and hexagons can be used and even modified to create interlocking shapes. Word tessellation is derived from the Latin word “tessella” meaning tile.

**HISTORY:** designers and mathematicians have used Tessellation designs for over 6000 years. Early tessellations were often mosaic tile designs used to decorate floors and ceilings of palaces and mosques.

The tessellated designs in the Alhambra mosque in Spain inspired Dutch graphic artist M.C. Escher. He then made tessellations into recognizable figures. Tessellations are often used in quilts, fabrics, and wallpaper.

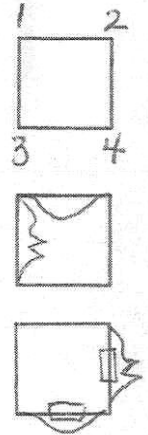
- **Pattern-** Anything repeated in a *predictable* combination.
- **Contrast-** Difference between two or more elements (e.g., value, color, texture) in a composition; juxtaposition of dissimilar elements in a work of art; also, the degree of difference between the lightest and darkest parts of a picture.
- **Tessellation-** To form into a mosaic pattern, as by using small squares of stone or glass.

- **Mosaic**- A picture or decorative design made by setting small colored pieces, as of stone or tile, into a surface or The process or art of making such pictures or designs.
- **Template**- A pattern or gauges, such as a thin metal plate with a cut pattern, used as a guide in making something repeat accurately and identically.

**There are 10 basic steps to follow in this assignment.**

Make the template:

1. Using a thick piece of square paper (*about 4" squares*), draw an interesting line connecting 2 top corners (corners #1 to #2) and connecting left side comers (corners #1 to #3). Optional: Instead of connecting the top corners you could connect the bottom corners.
2. Cut along the lines drawn therefore giving you three pieces.
3. Slide left piece to right side of your template and tape it in place. Make sure that the edges of the paper just meet and do not overlap.
4. Slide top piece to bottom and tape it in place. Make sure that the edges of the paper just meet and do not overlap.



Find a character:

5. On a small sheet of newsprint, trace around the edges of your template.
6. Using this shape you've made try to find a character like an animal or person in the shape and draw the details like eyes, ears, clothing, etc.

Draw the tessellation:

7. You can either draw a grid and line the template up on it at the corners...or simply place the template on the paper and work your way across and down tracing the template and filling up the paper. Make sure your shapes *interlock* without any empty space around them.
8. Using colored pencils or pencils, draw the character inside each space. You may also suggest alternative designs within shapes.
9. Paint or color each space completely. Remember, you are trying to show complex pattern and contrast in your work so think about what colors and techniques you are going to use on this project.
10. When you finish your project complete and attach the "A Pattern of Contrast Learning Goal Identification Worksheet," attach it to your project and turn it in to your teacher for grading.

**Evaluation:** This project will be evaluated upon the student's successful demonstration of the learning goals listed at the beginning of the project.