

RUSTY
ACTIVITY!

RUSTY'S TIME TRAVELLING ADVENTURES



MEDIEVAL FLOOR TILES

Rusty the Dog has been travelling in time and you can explore with him through one of his activities or learning packs. You can also read stories of his adventures on the Weston Museum website.

When was the Medieval Era ? - There are lots of different names for this bit of time, sometimes people say the Middle Ages or the Dark Ages and the exact dates vary according to which bit you are thinking about. Here we are looking at the era that stretches from after the Romans left in about 410 until 1485 when the Tudor Era began.

WHY DID THEY USE TILES?

In medieval times, having a tiled floor showed you had great wealth. Before this, floors would have been constructed of beaten earth or flagstones.

Have a go at making your own floor tile design with colouring, drawing or baking!



Many thanks to North Somerset Council's
Senior Archaeologist, Cat Lodge, for
sharing this information



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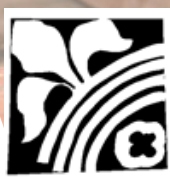
MEDIEVAL FLOOR TILES

SKILLED WORK

Tiles were made from the end of the 12th century and were most common in the 13th and 14th centuries. They were produced by skilled craftsmen who would travel the country. Making and laying tiles was difficult and time consuming, which meant that it was expensive.

Buildings such as churches, monasteries and convents had tiled floors.

In the later medieval period, owners of castles and manors began to decorate their homes with ceramic tiles.



TYPES OF TILES

There were different types and designs of Medieval floor tiles, some were very simple, others were much more detailed.

- Mosaic
- Plain
- Glazed
- Encaustic

The tiles on display at Weston Museum show various patterns and designs, including plants, flowers, animals and shields.



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MAKE AN ICED GINGERBREAD TILE

Diamond or square shapes around 8 cm x 8cm (just over 3 inches) are a good size for these biscuits, but smaller or larger is fine too.

Once you've made your biscuits, you can decorate them with intricate iced designs. Medieval people did not separate real from imaginary animals, so Unicorns, Dragons, and Mermaids are all welcome here!



YOU WILL NEED:

- 375 g Plain Flour
- 1 tsp Bicarbonate of Soda
- 3 tsp Ground Ginger
- 120 g Unsalted Butter (cold & cubed)
- 175 g Light Brown Sugar
- 5 tbsp Golden Syrup
- 1 Large Egg

Vegan recipe alternative

- 56g Vegan Butter (e.g. Vitalite)
- 100g Brown Sugar
- 100g Unsulphured Molasses (Golden Syrup or Black Treacle)
- 1 Flax Egg (a tbsp of Flax mixed with 3 tbsp of boiled water and left to stand for a minute)
- 1/2 tsp Vanilla extract
- 250g All Purpose Flour (plain flour)
- 1 tsp Baking Soda (Bicarbonate of Soda) and 1/4 tsp Salt
- Spice: 2 tsp Ground Ginger, 2 tsp Ground Cinnamon, 1/4 tsp Allspice, 1/4 tsp Ground Cloves



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INSTRUCTIONS:

- Preheat your oven to 190C/180C Fan and line 3-4 Baking trays with Parchment paper (or do it in two batches if you only have two trays).
- Add the flour, Bicarbonate of Soda, and Ginger to a large bowl and add the cold, cubed butter to the bowl.
- Rub together with your fingers until it resembles breadcrumbs (Or mix the four ingredients in a food processor until its breadcrumbs).
- Mix in the sugar and then add the Golden Syrup and Egg - beat with a spatula/your hands until it is a smooth dough.
- Knead the biscuit dough, and then Roll the dough out onto a lightly floured work surface.
- Roll it out to 1/2cm thickness and cut out your 8cm x 8cm squares for your tiles.
- Place them on the lined baking trays and bake in the oven for 10-11 minutes, cool on a wire rack fully, then decorate with icing!

Decoration

You can use flour paste or writing icing to decorate your tiles. Make them as simple or as intricate as you like.



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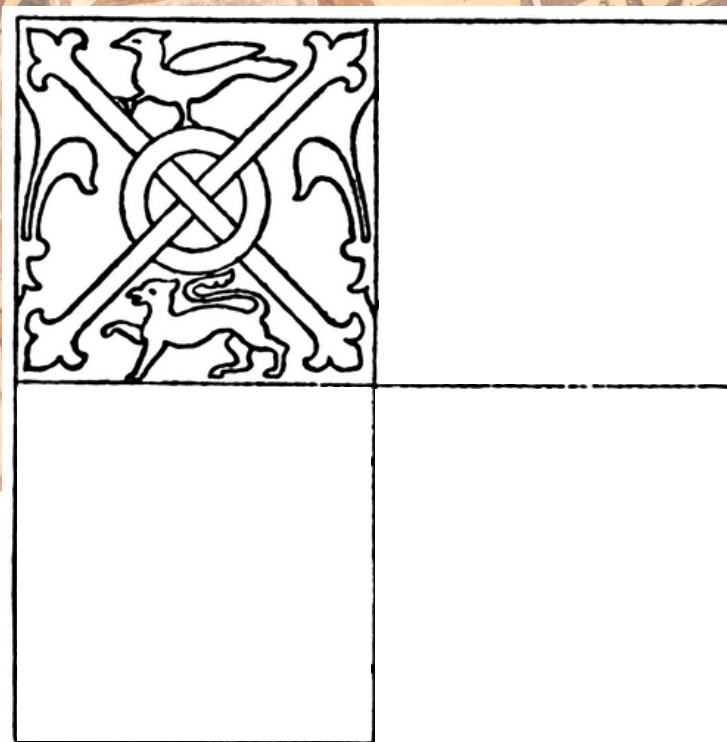


MEDIEVAL FLOOR TILES

CREATE A NEW TILE DESIGN

Sometimes tiles would be laid out in a specific order that made a repeated pattern. See if you can copy the tile design over to the other squares in a way that mirrors them and makes a bigger pattern.

You can also colour some in or design your own pattern from scratch.



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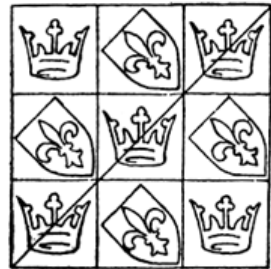
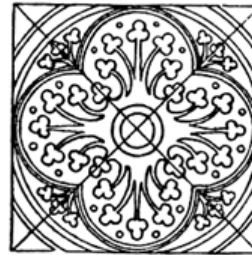
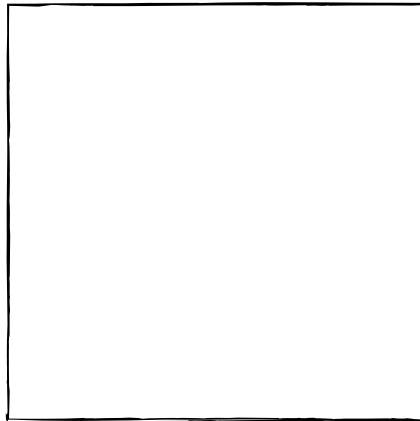
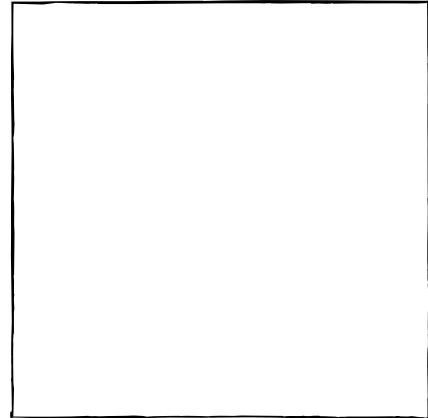
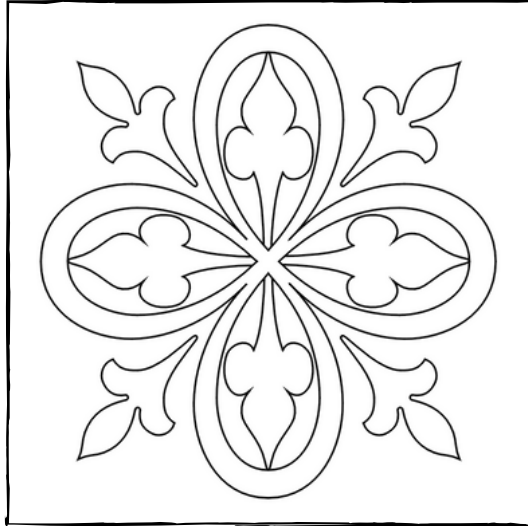
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SHOW US YOUR WORK!

Send us a picture of your work on social media, find us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram @westonmuseum
Include the hashtag #westonmuseumrusty



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