

# Mosaic Vocabulary

**Mosaic** – a design or a picture created with small pieces of material (glass, pebbles, or tiles) placed on a base (floor, wall, or table) and embedded in an adhesive material that holds them in place and fills the spaces between the pieces.

**Grout** – a thin mortar or fine plaster used, for example, to fill the spaces between objects in a mosaic

**Opus musivum** – mosaic decorations of walls

**Opus sectile** – a pattern composed of larger stones of varied shapes

**Opus tessellatum** – simple geometric patterns

**Opus vermiculatum** – small stones arranged in patterns of curved lines, including pictures of objects

**Scorer/Breaker** – scribes the surface of tile or glass; then makes a clean break with gentle, but forceful, pressure.

**Tesserae** – any piece of glass or marble from which the mosaic is built

**Tile Nipper** – tool used to nip tiles into halves, quarters, and diagonals.