A tessellation is a repeating pattern that completely fills a 2D space, like a sheet of paper, without gaps or overlaps. Tesselations can be found in the world, including bricks in a wall, patterns in quilts, and tiles on floors or walls. Where have you been able to see a tessellation pattern?

Scissors

• Larger sheet of paper

• Tape

## What you need:

- An index card or piece of thick paper or cardboard
- Pen, pencil, or crayon
- What you do:
- 1. Start with an index card (rectangle) or a square of stiff paper that is about 3 inches by 3 inches.
- 2. Draw a line from one side to the opposite side (you can make it simple or complicated!)
- 3. Cut along the line you drew and swap the pieces and tape them together.
- Draw another line on the new shape in a perpendicular direction to the first line.

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## **Tesselations**









- 5. Cut along this new line, swap the pieces, and tape them together.
- 6. The resulting shape is your tessellation tile which you can use to make a larger repeating pattern.
- 7. Place your tile on a larger piece of paper and trace it. Then move the tile next to the traced shape, fitting it like a puzzle piece and trace the tile again. Continue tracing the tile to create your full tessellation design. You can color in the shapes, too, if you'd like.









