

## Salt Clay Mosaics



A fun way to study the early Christian church in ancient Rome is to make salt clay mosaics of Christian symbols.

To see some early Christian symbols, see:

<http://www.religionfacts.com/christianity/symbols/a-z.htm>

### Supplies:

2 cups flour  
1 cup salt  
water  
tempera paints, various colors

### Directions:

1. Mix together flour, salt and enough water to make a stiff dough. Knead until smooth.
2. Divide into three equal sections. Wrap one section in plastic wrap and set aside. Divide the other 2 pieces each in half. Add different color tempera paint to each section and knead into the dough. You may have to add more flour to keep it smooth.
3. Flour 2-4 cookie sheets and roll out each color, individually, to a 1/8" thickness. Cut into small squares (1/2"x1/2") using a long knife. Bake at 350 for 20 minutes or until hard. Remove and cool.
4. Roll out uncolored clay onto a floured cookie sheet to 1/4" thickness. Trim edges to make an oval, circle, square or any shape desired.
5. "Draw" your Christian symbol with a knife onto the clay and press in the various colored tiles to outline the shape. Use a different color tile for the background. Create a colorful border with several alternating colors.
6. Bake for 20-30 minutes, until hard. Cool on a rack until completely cool.
7. Optional: Brush with floor wax and let dry. Repeat with several coats, if desired.