

# M.C. ESCHER

By Christy Hale

### Meet the Artist

Born on June 17, 1898, in Leeuwarden in the Netherlands, Maurits Cornelis Escher struggled with his school studies, especially math. But he found an class where he learned to make beautiful art pieces. Though Escher didn't successfully complete high school, he went on to study graphic arts at the School for Architecture and Decorative Arts. As a young man, he created beautiful landscape prints while he traveled and observed the world. But he is best known for his drawings and printings done after 1917—drawings that were more

imaginative than those of any other artist. These drawings led to a series of papers, essays, and lectures that introduced the world to his new systems, especially with his new systems, especially with his new systems, especially with his new systems.

### Never-Ending Designs

Escher had a great sense of wonder, which he provided in his unique artwork. His abstract work, replication, and patterns-creating led him to create and print complex and mathematical drawings that he could use to begin to explain to the world.

Along the way, Escher's work was published in *De Stijl* and *De Nieuwe Kunst*. His students called him "the most beautiful man of our time."

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### Math + Art = Fun!

Escher's work and mathematics were inseparable. Escher's work was published in *De Stijl* and *De Nieuwe Kunst*. His students called him "the most beautiful man of our time."

## A WALK THROUGH THE PAINTING

### Contrast

How many colors can you identify? Can you identify the colors? Can you identify the colors? Can you identify the colors?



### Tessellations

How many shapes can you identify? Can you identify the shapes? Can you identify the shapes? Can you identify the shapes?

### Rotation

How many shapes can you identify? Can you identify the shapes? Can you identify the shapes? Can you identify the shapes?

### By Position

How many shapes can you identify? Can you identify the shapes? Can you identify the shapes? Can you identify the shapes?

ESCHER'S TESSERATIONS

## ART WORKSHOP

# CREATE TESSELLATIONS LIKE M.C. ESCHER

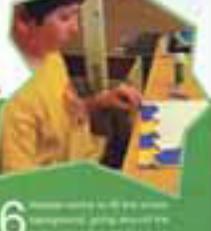


Mary Busman's fourth- and fifth-grade students at Orlene Elementary School in Palo Alto, California, really know how to put the pieces together! Inspired by the striking work of M.C. Escher, the students turned math into art as they experimented with colorful shapes and interlocking patterns. In the process, they explored contrast, dimension, illusion, repetition, metamorphosis, and even infinity. *By Christy Hale*



**ESCHERIAN TERMS**

- Concave** A shape that has a hole in the middle.
- Convex** A shape that has no holes.
- Interlocking** A shape that fits together with another shape.
- Repeating** A shape that repeats itself over and over.
- Transformation** A shape that changes into another shape.
- Translation** A shape that moves without changing.
- Reflection** A shape that is a mirror image of another shape.
- Rotation** A shape that is turned around.
- Distortion** A shape that is stretched or squashed.



1

Choose an object that is made of many small, repeating shapes. Use a ruler to measure the length and width of the object. Repeat the process with the other object.

2

Choose a color for each shape. Use a marker to draw the shapes on a piece of paper. Repeat the process with the other object.

3

Use a ruler to measure the length and width of the object. Repeat the process with the other object.

4

Use a ruler to measure the length and width of the object. Repeat the process with the other object.

5

Use a ruler to measure the length and width of the object. Repeat the process with the other object.

6

Use a ruler to measure the length and width of the object. Repeat the process with the other object.