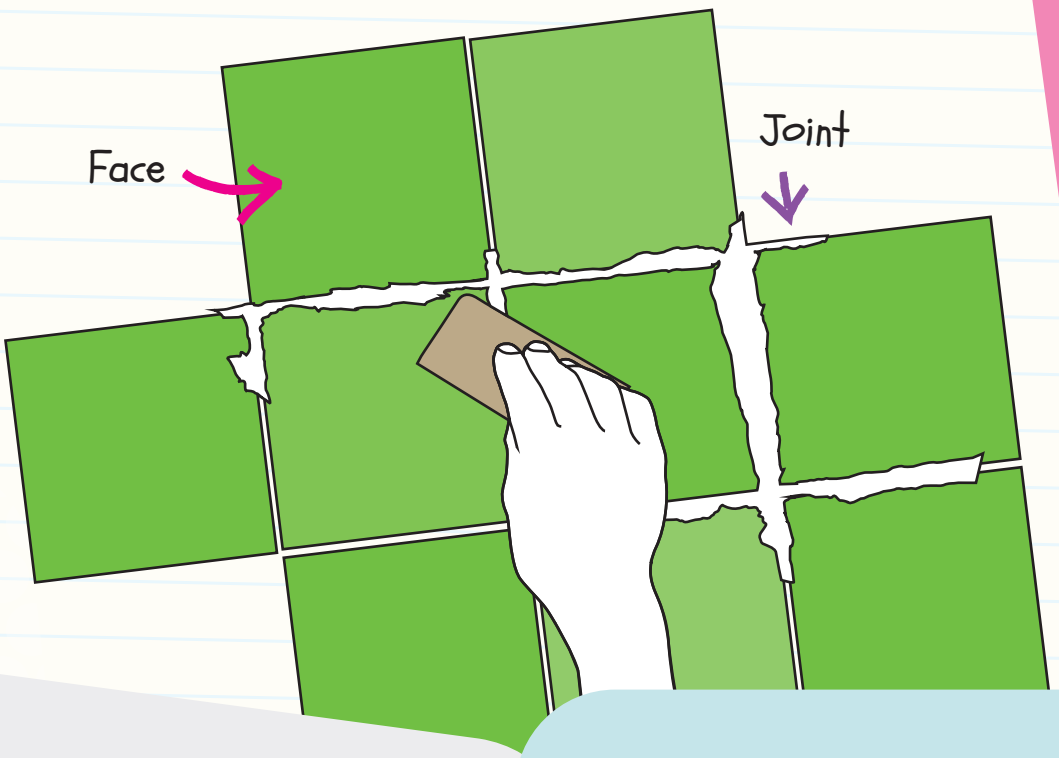
The Senior Section

A sticky situation

DIY

30 mins

Jump straight in



Aim of activity

Become an expert tiler by learning the skill of grouting with a range of unexpected materials!

What you'll get out of it

- Explore tiling techniques
- Practise following instructions
- Work with messy substances

What you'll need

- Table coverings
- Crackers, wafers or biscuits
- Tubs of edible spread – cream cheese, jam or similar
- Plates
- Small pieces of cardboard (credit-card size), 1 between 2
- Scissors
- Mosaic coaster sets (available online). Alternatively you can glue pennies to jar lids then use a small tub of ready-mixed grout
- Rubber gloves, 1 pair between 2
- A kitchen sponge
- Buckets of water

WE DISCOVER, WE GROW
Girlguiding

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Stay safe

If you're using glue to make your coaster, follow the safety precautions and instructions on the packaging. You may need ventilation, or you may need to wear gloves when applying it. Check the drying time. Take your time when applying it.

Before you start

In pairs, cover your work surface with newspaper. Next, set up your area with a plate, some crackers (broken into pieces about 2cm square), some edible spread, and the cardboard.

Make sure there are some buckets of water and sponges nearby (you can share these with other pairs).

Tiling a bathroom is tricky, but if you know what you're doing it's not impossible. One really important thing is to seal the gaps between the tiles so no water gets behind them. Tilers use something called '**grout**' to do this. Grouting also helps tilers to get a neat finish. Fancy a go?

What to do

1. Have a look around your building to see if you can find any examples of tiling or grouting. How do you think professionals make the grouting look so uniform?

2. Stick your cracker pieces down using your 'grout' and then lay the grout by taking a blob of spread and smearing it all over the cracker 'tiles' with the piece of cardboard. Push it down into the spaces between the 'tiles'. Work together to make sure you completely fill all the gaps. Be careful not to drag the spread out of the joints.

3. To tidy up your tiling, use your cardboard as a spreader. Use scissors to round one of the corners of the cardboard. Now you can run it down the length of the joints to even up the spread and fill any remaining gaps. How does it look?

4. When you've finished, take a look at the rest of the unit's results. How did they get on?

5. Now it's time to put your tiling skills to use, and make a coaster using real grout. Depending on whether you're using a coaster kit or some pennies and jar lids, arrange and stick your 'tiles' to the base. This may need a separate adhesive, but some kinds of grout also do the job.

6. Once your tiles have had some time to dry follow steps 2 to 3 again, but with real grout.

   Follow the instructions on the grout packaging. Use your sponge to wipe the excess from the surface of the tiles after each stroke. Rinse out the sponge after each stroke for the best results.