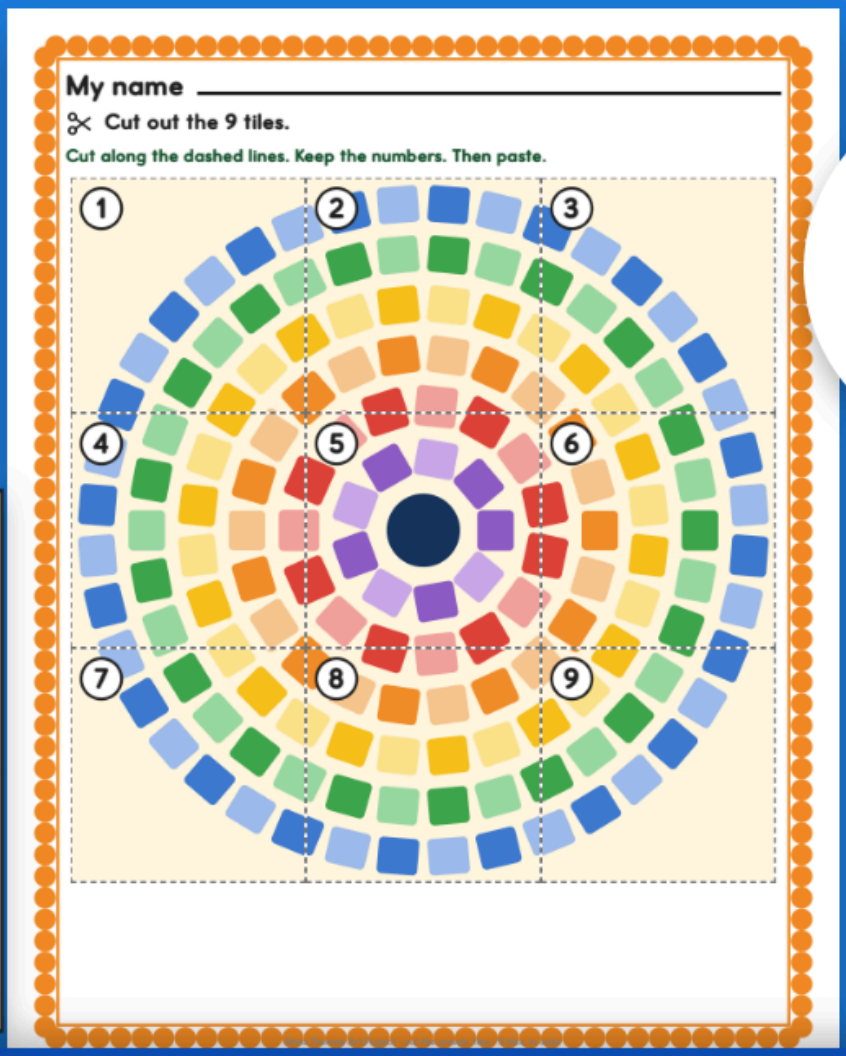
Bright Path Sped



CUT, PASTE, WRITE

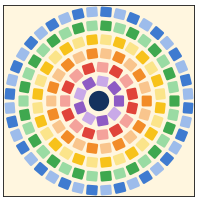


ALMA THOMAS ART PROJECT

Concentric Circle Mosaic

Alma Thomas Art Project: Start Here

Children read a short bio of the artist Alma Thomas, learn six art words, then cut and paste a concentric-circle mosaic of colored dabs and write about it. For Black History Month or any art week.



What's inside

- **Who was Alma Thomas?** (page 3): a short bio in our own words, then three questions, a fill-in and a drawing box
- **The finished mosaic** (page 4, with a prompt to write what you notice) and **make it: steps and palette** (page 6)
- **Six art words** to trace and match (page 5): abstract, pattern, concentric, mosaic, artist, palette
- **The mosaic craft**: 9 square tiles, each 2.5 inches, printed in color (page 7) and as outlines to color (page 8). Page 9 has the 9 numbered paste targets that make a square 7.5 inches across
- **Draw your own** dabs on dashed rings (page 10), **4 patterns** to continue (page 11) and **put four events in order** (page 12)
- **Fill in the sentences** (page 13) and **two writing pages** (pages 14 and 15)
- A class data page (page 16), the teacher key (page 17), a family letter (page 18) and credits with what's next (page 19)

Supplies

- scissors
- glue sticks
- crayons, markers or colored pencils
- pencils
- printed pages
- card stock for a sturdier mosaic (optional)

Five days, one activity a day

- **Day 1: Meet the artist.** Read page 3 together, then try the words on page 5. Look at the finished mosaic on page 4.
- **Day 2: Plan.** Do the steps and color the palette (page 6). Try the patterns (page 11).
- **Day 3: Cut.** Cut the 9 tiles on page 7, or color the outline tiles on page 8 first. Every cut is a straight line along a dashed edge.
- **Day 4: Paste.** Lay tiles 1 to 9 on the targets on page 9, then paste. Children who finish can draw their own on page 10.
- **Day 5: Write.** Fill in the sentences (page 13) or write (pages 14 and 15). Hang the mosaics together on a wall.

Making it easier or harder

- Easier: pre-cut the tiles, paste tiles 1 to 3 first and the rest the next day, or let a partner hold the glue stick.
- The small shape beside the name line marks the level. Circle: read and answer, trace and match, paste, or draw. Square: patterns, put the events in order, or fill in the sentences. Triangle: write freely.

Prep and notes

Answer key: page 17. The mosaic is our own design from squares set on rings of circles: it is not a copy of any painting. Alma Thomas painted her own, very different, abstract works; your class can look at them in library books or on a museum website with an adult. The bio on page 3 is in our own words from public biographies. This is an independent resource. It is not affiliated with or endorsed by any person, family, estate or organization.

PREVIEW

My name _____ level ●

Read about Alma Thomas. Answer.

Who was Alma Thomas?

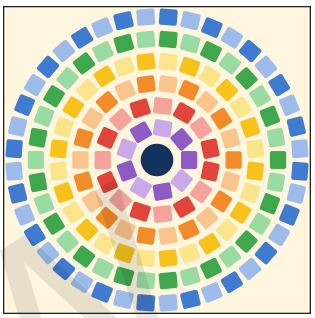
Alma Thomas was an artist and a teacher.

She was the first person to graduate from the art program at Howard University.

She taught art at Shaw Junior High School in Washington, D.C., for about 35 years.

After she retired, she painted full time.

Her paintings have bright dabs and stripes of color. The dabs sit in circles and rows.



Two of her paintings are "Resurrection" and "Earth Sermon".

1. What did Alma Thomas teach?

art | gym | cooking

2. Where did she teach?

Washington, D.C. | Boston | Dallas

3. Her paintings have bright

dabs of color | gray lines | no color

4. The dabs sit in _____ and rows.

circles | boats | hats

Draw what you learned.

PREVIEW

My name _____ level ●

Trace the word. Draw a line to its meaning.

abstract	○	○ circles inside circles
pattern	○	○ a person who makes art
concentric	○	○ art made of shapes and colors
mosaic	○	○ the set of colors an artist uses
artist	○	○ shapes or colors that repeat
palette	○	○ a picture made of many small pieces

PREVIEW

Write your favorite word.

_____

Use it in a sentence.

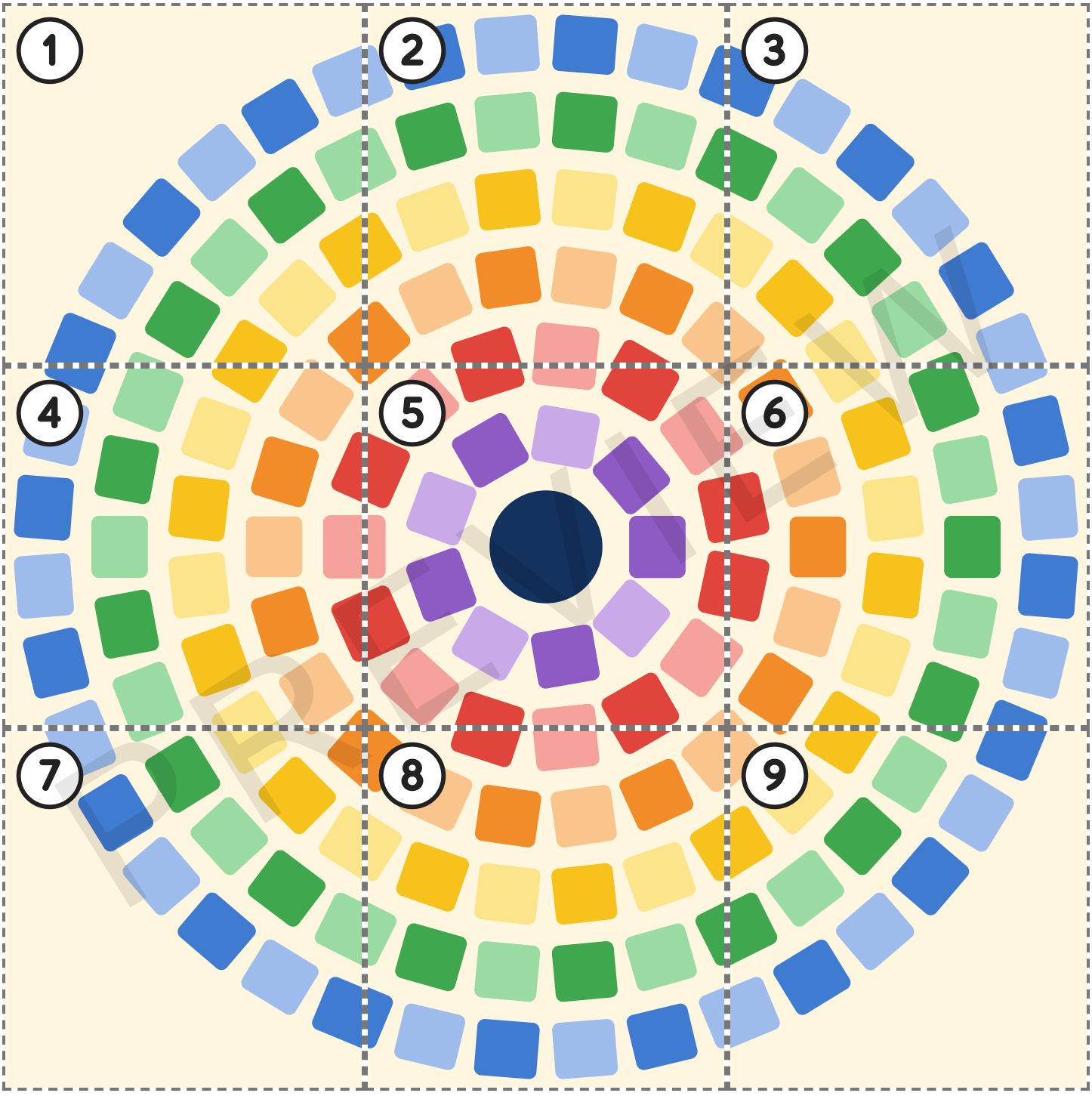
_____

_____

My name _____

✂ Cut out the 9 tiles.

Cut along the dashed lines. Keep the numbers. Then paste.

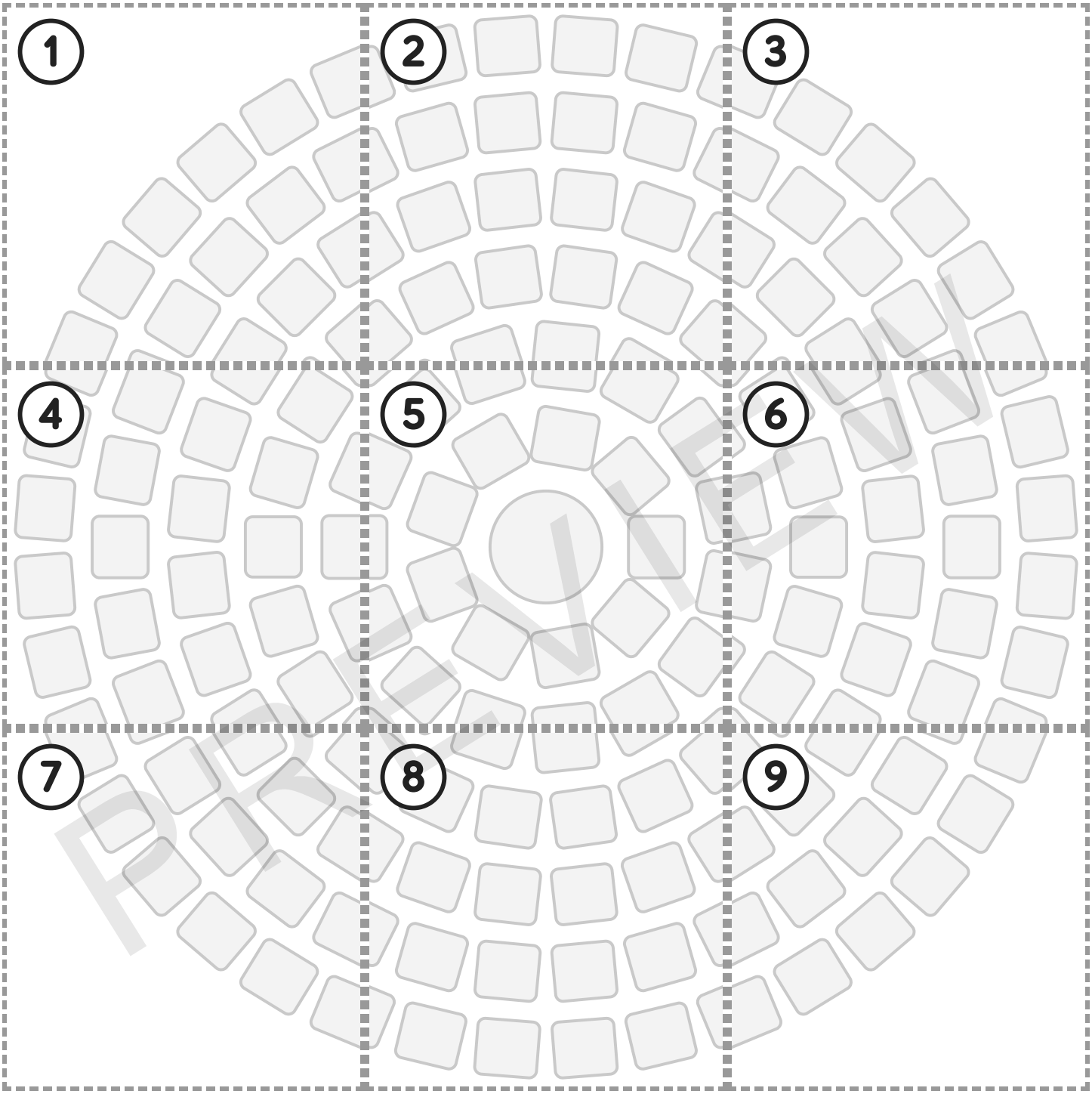


PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ level ●

Paste tiles 1 to 9. Make the mosaic.



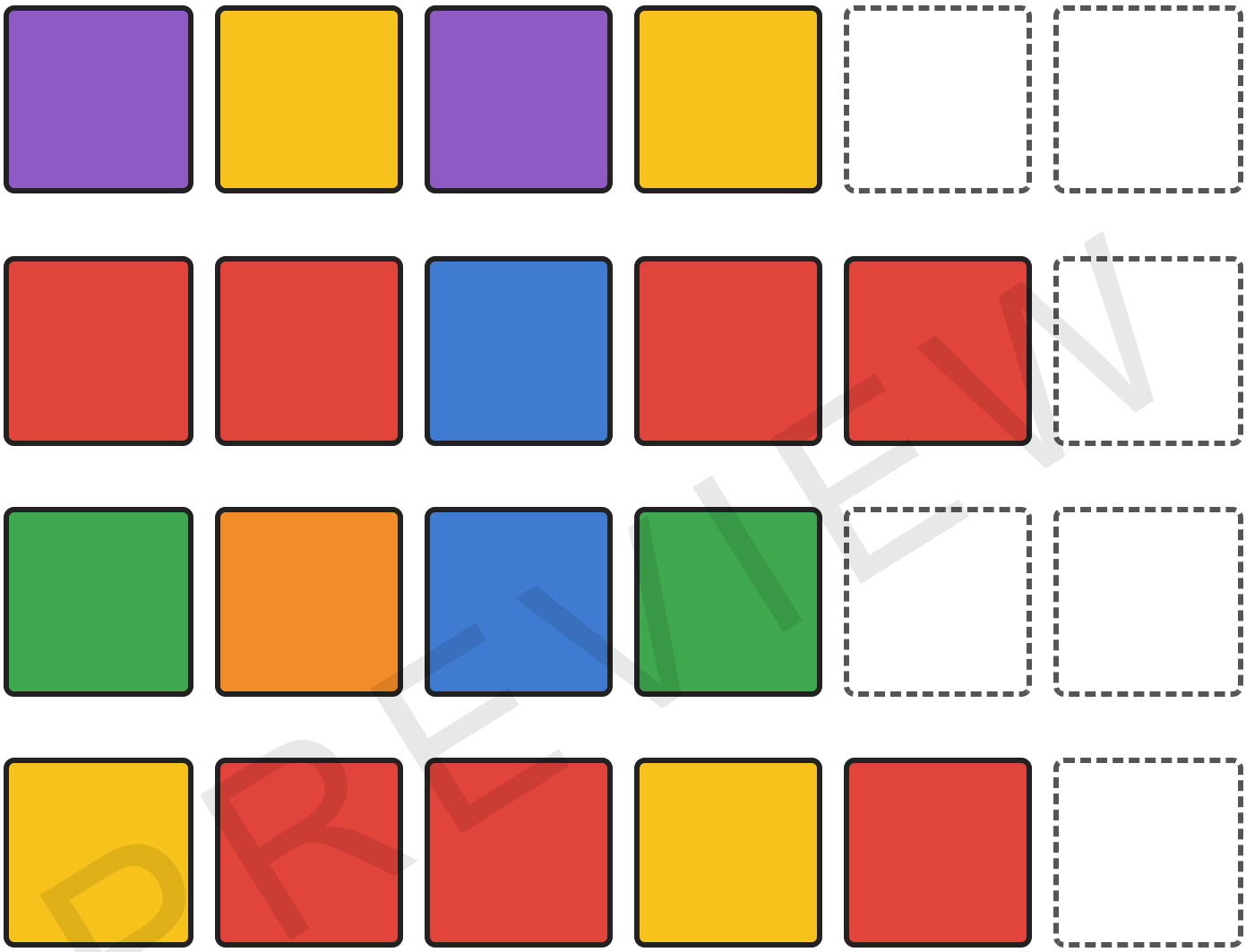
PREVIEW

My mosaic is called _____

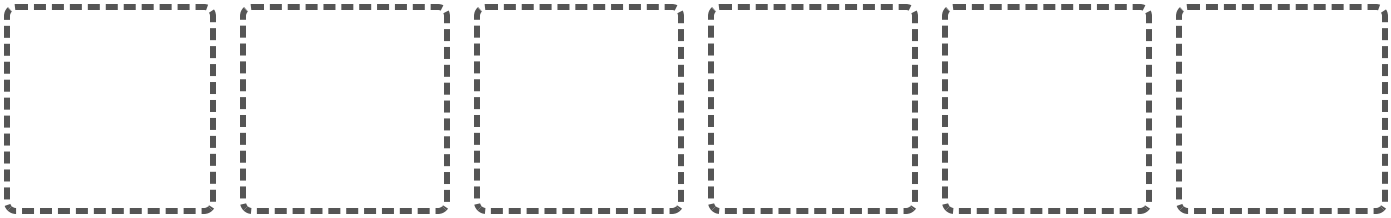
My name _____ level ■

Finish the pattern. Color the last squares.

A pattern repeats. What color comes next?



Make your own pattern.



My pattern is _____

PREVIEW

My name _____ level ■

Finish the sentences. Use the word bank.

art rows palette concentric pattern mosaic

Alma Thomas taught

_____

Her dabs sit in circles and

_____

The set of colors an artist uses is a

_____

Circles inside circles are

_____

Draw dabs in a row.

PREVIEW

My name _____ level ▲

Draw your mosaic. Write about it.

My mosaic

My mosaic has

_____

_____

_____

_____

PREVIEW

Teacher Key

Who was Alma Thomas? (page 3)

1. art 2. Washington, D.C. 3. dabs of color 4. circles (the sentence reads "The dabs sit in circles and rows."). The drawing is the child's own.

Art words (page 5)

Word	Meaning
abstract	art made of shapes and colors
pattern	shapes or colors that repeat
concentric	circles inside circles
mosaic	a picture made of many small pieces
artist	a person who makes art
palette	the set of colors an artist uses

The mosaic (pages 7-9)

The 9 tiles are numbered 1 to 9 and go left to right, top row first. Tile 5 holds the center. The finished mosaic has 6 rings; the colors from the center out and the number of dabs on each ring are below. Children who color the outline tiles may choose any colors.

Ring	Color	Dabs
1	purple	9
2	red	15
3	orange	22
4	yellow	28
5	green	34
6	blue	40

Patterns (page 11)

Row	Pattern	Colors to add
1	AB	purple, yellow
2	AAB	blue
3	ABC	orange, blue
4	ABB	red

Order and sentences (pages 12, 13)

A = 2 B = 4 C = 1 D = 3 (1 Howard University, 2 Shaw Junior High School, 3 retired, 4 painted full time).
Sentences: Alma Thomas taught **art**; Her dabs sit in circles and **rows**; The set of colors an artist uses is a **palette**; Circles inside circles are **concentric**.

Pages 4, 6, 10, 14 and 15 are the child's own colors, words and pictures: there is no single right answer.

PREVIEW