

Biography of M.C. Escher

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### M.C. Escher's Life

Maurits Cornelius Escher was born in Leeuwarden, Holland in 1898. In school his grades were terrible he repeated many classes. His family thought he was going to follow in his father's footsteps but because of his grades he couldn't so he took up graphic arts. His work was unnoticed till the 1950's. In 1956 he had given his first exhibition. His greatest admirers were mathematicians who noticed the mathematics behind the art they were surprised he had no professions in math beyond high school.

### Escher's Work Related to Math

Escher drew tessellations (an arrangement of shapes completely covering the board leaving no gaps or overlapping each other). The shapes are usually polygons. Escher loved all kinds of tessellations regular and irregular but most interested in "metamorphoses" when the shapes kind of collided with other shapes forming shapes in between. His interest began in 1936 when he traveled to Spain studying tile patterns in the Alhambra. In 1957 he wrote an essay on tessellations.

In a lot of his work was the polyhedrals:

Name of the shape	how many faces	shape of the faces
Tetrahedron	4	triangular
Cube	6	square
Octahedron	8	triangular

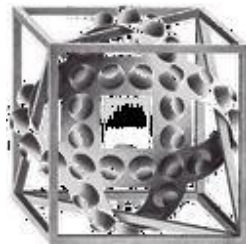
Dodecahedron	12	pentagonal
Icosahedrons	20	triangular

### M.C. Escher was known for...

Drawing pictures that boggled people's imagination. He was interested in topology. Topology is the modern today's of geometry the study of different spaces. His tessellations were also very famous. He got his inspiration from the Alhambra, and he spent days sketching the Alhambra.

### The Logic of Space

One of the features of the logic of space is light and shadow on concave and convex objects. In



"Cube With Ribbons" the dots are the clue to how the ribbons intertwined with the cube, but our eyes show us that it's impossible that the ribbons intertwined. M.C. Escher did not draw a lot of art, but was able to make an impact because of what illusions he did draw. It is amazing how he drew, but when he died in 1972 more could have been said about his art, and it was. The next person to learn about him must keep reading because it's so cool how he did all of this. I think M.C. Escher is an amazing artist.

The Mathematical Art of M.C. Escher" – Platonic Realms MiniText." Platonic Realms Entryway.

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