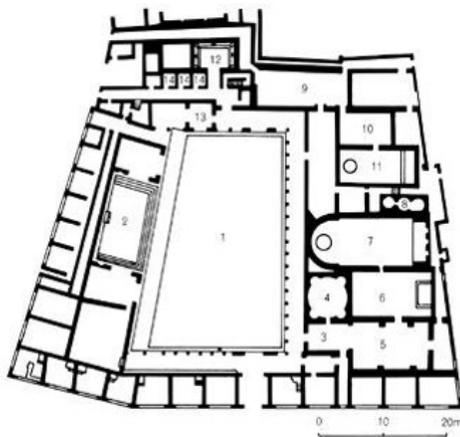


# DIY Mosaics

When you hear the word “bath,” what comes to mind? A small, private room to wash? Maybe you think about your own bathroom, which probably has a bathtub, shower, toilet, and sink.



Plan of the Stabian Baths

1. Palaestra
2. Swimming pool (natatio)
3. Entrance hall
4. Cold bath (trigidarium; formerly a hot sweating room, laconicum)
5. Undressing room (apodyterium)
6. Warm room (tepidarium)
7. Hot room (caldarium)
8. Furnaces
9. Women's apodyterium
10. Women's tepidarium
11. Women's caldarium
12. Latrine
13. Bath supervisor's office
14. Individual "hip bath" cubicles



But baths in ancient Rome were very different. “Bathing” to a Roman meant going to a public building to socialize, relax, exercise, hear a lecture, visit the library, and yes—bathe. The public baths were open to all Romans, though men and women bathed separately. Large or small, all Roman baths had at least three rooms and a furnace. The *frigidarium* was the farthest from the furnace. It was a cold room with a cold-water pool. The *tepidarium* was a little closer to the furnace. It is where you went for a warm bath. The *caldarium* was right next to the furnace and was something like a hot tub or sauna.

Roman bathhouses were heated using a hypocaust system. Here’s how it worked: Small pillars elevated the bathhouse floor, allowing hot air from the furnace to circulate underneath. The pillars supported the large square tiles that made up the floor. A thick layer of waterproof concrete over the tiles kept the floor from becoming too hot to walk on. Finally, a decorative mosaic sealed the concrete surface and made it easy to clean.

Bathhouses were often beautifully decorated. Many had painted frescoes adorning the walls and simple or ornate mosaics on the floors. These decorations usually highlighted aspects of the natural world, especially aquatic themes like underwater scenes, marine life, and sea deities.

Try your hand at creating your own mosaic. Print out one of the guides to create a hippocamp (horse-fish), a leocamp (lion-fish), or dolphins. Or you can create your own design.

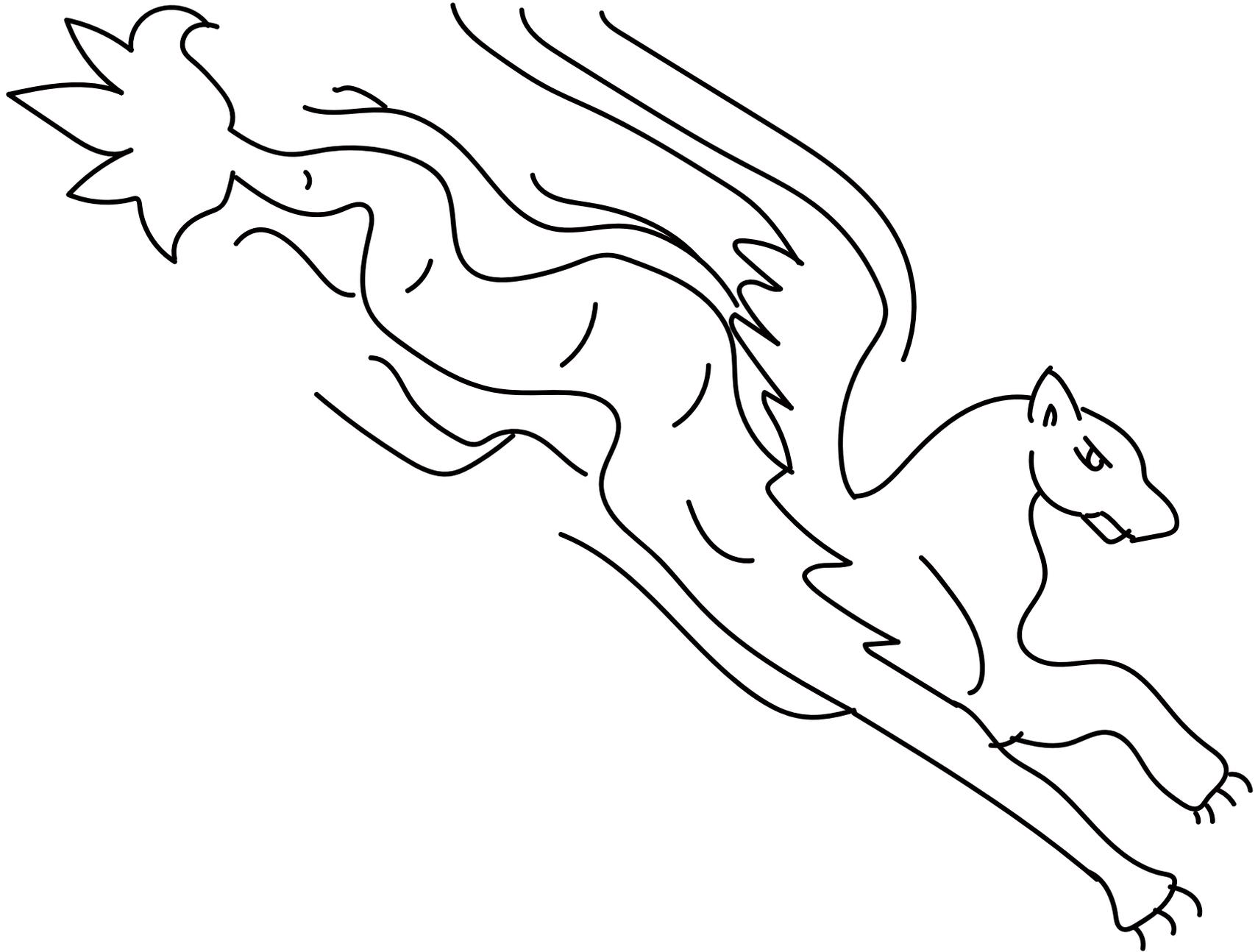
## What you will need:

- Colored paper, cut into small squares
- Glue stick
- Plain paper, or printed examples.



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