If you only have 15 minutes …

Explore the geography, cultural influences and patterns of Portuguese tiles.

Observe (3 minutes)

Skim the article, noting phrases that connect to each of the three themes below. Record your examples in the chart.

- The geographical origin of Portuguese tiles.
- The history and culture that influenced the creation of Portuguese tiles.
- The patterns and symbols that adorn Portuguese tiles.

Phrases that describe geographical origin[1]	
Phrases that describe cultural influence[2]	
Phrases that describe patterns and symbols[3]	

Discuss (10 minutes)

The Geographical Origin of Portuguese Tiles

- From what regions have Portuguese tiles drawn influence?

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The Cultural Influence on the Creation of Portuguese Tiles

- How did cultural exchanges shape to the types found throughout Portugal?

The Patterns and Symbols of Portuguese Tiles

- What are some common patterns and symbols seen on tiles that decorate Portugal's buildings and public spaces?

Reflect (2 minutes)

Which aspect of Portuguese tiles—geographical origin, cultural influence, or patterns and symbols—felt most meaningful to you? Why?

Common Core Standard(s) Met:

CCRA.R.1 Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

CCRA.R.2 Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

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1 Examples may include: "King Manuel I went to Seville and Alhambra in the late 15th century"; "eight centuries of Arab rule in the Iberian Peninsula ended in 1492"; "technique developed in the Middle East."

2 Examples may include: "Tilemaking, inspired by Islamic architecture, flourished in Portugal under a Christian king"; "restoring old palaces covered in Moorish tiles"; "moved away from the abstract art of the Gothic era."

3 Examples may include: "Repetitive floral patterns of red, green, and blue ceramic pieces"; "Flemish artists who leaned heavily on the white-and-blue coloring made popular by Chinese porcelain"; "Moorish-style mosaics devoid of any portrayal of people"; "began including flowers, vegetables, animals and people."

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