THE WEEK THAT WAS

SQUARING LIKE SMETHAM

James Smetham was an artist, poet, teacher and thinker who was alive between 1820 and 1889. He is known as being a 'Pre-Raphaelite', and was friends with many leading 19th century artists, such as D.G. Rossetti and William Blake. One notable style of art that Smetham produced were his 'Squarings'. These were small drawings or watercolours, and, as well as using these to illustrate the Bible, Smetham created volumes of his 'Daily Journal' only using 'Squarings'. It is thought that doing so enabled him to confine each day to its own space, and to also record through his favoured method: art.

Why don't you try to record your week in 'squares' and have a go at Squaring like Smetham.



Why not also turn me over for examples of Smetham's squarings?



This squaring of St. Peter walking on water is even smaller than a penny!

Sometimes, James Smetham liked to stick items into his journal to go alongside his squarings, like this cutting from a newspaper.

If you wanted to, and can find items like this, you could stick them onto your squarings too.





This shows what Smetham's journal entries normally looked like. Lots of sketches in pen, and only a little bit of writing.

Have a go at creating your own squaring journal on the other side of this worksheet.