

Print Lesson with 1st to 6th Classes

‘Stencilling: Making Seasonal Prints and/or Cards’

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Curriculum Strand: Print (Visual Arts Curriculum p.34)

Objective: *Use a widening range of print-making techniques to make theme-based or non-representational prints (p.34)*

Linkage: Paint and Colour > *Explore colour with a variety of materials and media (p.32)*

Integration Possibilities:

Oral Language: Talk about and reflect on past and present experiences, and plan, predict, anticipate and speculate about future and imaginary experiences (p.27)

Mathematics: Sort, describe, compare and name 2-D shapes: square, rectangle, triangle, circle, semicircle (p.49)

Identify and discuss the use of 2-D shapes in the environment (p.49)

Developing this Activity in Class:

Materials Needed: Paper: sheets of different coloured sugar paper give lovely effects
Card
Scissors
Blue, red, yellow, white and black poster paint
Palettes or plates for mixing colours
Water containers
Brushes
Sponges, old toothbrushes
J-cloths (or old t-towels/towels cut into face-cloth size)

Stimulus: Explain the stencilling technique to the children and show how it can be used to make positive and negative prints, i.e., sponge/spray over the stencil to give a negative print and sponge/spray inside the shape to give a positive print.
Depending on the season, have a discussion with the children about the things that remind them of that time of year. It could be Hallowe'en, Christmas, St. Patrick's Day, etc.
"Are there any shapes that remind you of that time? What shapes might make you think of Easter? What shape is an Easter Egg/bunny? (Christmas tree/star/Santa/snowman/snowflake, Hallowe'en pumpkin/cat/witch etc). Could you draw the shapes onto a piece of card and cut them out? Try to keep the card the shapes are cut from intact as this will give us the positive prints.

Activity: Allow the children to choose the coloured paper they would like to use to make their prints. Encourage them to experiment by *sponging* over/inside some of the stencils and *spraying* over/inside them with the brushes or toothbrushes. They might like to make positive and negative prints of the same stencil side by side on the page. They might also like to overprint with a different stencil or with a relief print block. (See lesson on Relief Printmaking). They might also like to add details with colouring pencils or crayons when the prints are dry. When the children are happy with their prints, they sign them, just as artists do!

Evaluation/Looking and Responding:

This will be happening as the children work. When they have finished, give them time to discuss their prints, where they encountered difficulties and how they overcame them. They will enjoy explaining how they 'made' the secondary and tertiary colours by mixing the primaries and how they achieved the textures, patterns and shapes with the stencils. This could be done with the 'Artist's Chair', where children take turns to show and describe their prints. They will have learned a lot from this activity and subsequent print activities will show improvements. Display the children's prints in the classroom or corridor.

Encourage the children to respond to greeting cards (*after*) they have printed their own, to logos and to prints in local galleries and libraries.

Extension Activities:

The children could make stencils to represent logos of their own designs. These could be for items of clothing, sweet bars, sports clubs or other personal interests.

ICT Possibilities:

The children's prints could be scanned into the computer and printed as greeting cards, gift cards or bookmarks.

Using the I Am An Artist DVD:

The *Print* programmes on the DVD offer opportunities to see children making prints using stencils to make rubbings as well as prints.

Note:

You might have to cut out a simple shape first to show the children how to keep both the negative and positive shapes intact while cutting. They might need some practise before they cut the actual stencil they wish to use for the print-making. It can be difficult for them at first, be patient, they will soon become adept at it.

Relevant Artists:

Andy Warhol (for his stencils used in silk screen printing)
Other artists you think relevant

Relevant Websites:

Images of seasonal clip art – it might be suitable for showing a selection of images to the children *after* they have made their own prints
<http://www.fotosearch.com/illustration/seasonla.html>

Examples of seasonal prints by Joe Chapline
http://www.joechapline.com/pdf_samples/EdRec_III.pdf

List of online galleries where Andy Warhol's art can be seen
http://www.artcyclopedia.com/artists/warhol_andy.html