

Print Lesson with 3rd to 4th Classes

‘Monoprinting: Street Scenes, Skylines’

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Curriculum Strand: Print (Visual Arts Curriculum p.52)

Objective: *Use a widening range of print-making techniques to make theme-based or non-representational prints (p.52)*

Linkage: **Paint and Colour** > *Express his/her imaginative life and interpret imaginative themes using colour expressively (p.50)*
Drawing > *Express his/her imaginative life and interpret imaginative themes using inventive pattern and detail (p.48)*

Integration Possibilities:

Science: Investigate how materials may be used in construction (p.66)

Geography: (1) Explore, investigate and come to appreciate the major features of the built environment in the locality and in a contrasting part of Ireland (p.54)

(2) Study some aspects of the environments and lives of people in one location in Europe and one location in another part of the world (p.56)

History: Actively explore some features of the local environment (p.45)

Developing this Activity in Class:

Materials Needed: Paper: sheets of different coloured sugar paper give lovely effects, sheets of newsprint
 Block Printing Ink (water-based) in primary colours, black and white
 Sheets of Perspex or tiles (or any smooth, non-porous surface) A3 or A4 size
 Rollers
 Lollipop sticks or flat-topped plastic clay tools
 J-cloths (or old tea-towels/towels cut into face-cloth sizes)
 Newspaper to cover the tables

Stimulus: “Describe a street scene/skyline where you live. What shapes can you see? Are there any buildings? Are they all the same height? Do any of them stand out on the skyline? Are there any recognisable landmarks? If it is a rural skyline, describe what you can see. Is there any outstanding landmark or shape? If you could add a feature to your skyline what would it be? Imagine a town/city/rural skyline of the future ...”

Activity: Explain and demonstrate the monoprinting technique to the children, emphasising that less is more when squeezing out the printing inks. The lollipop sticks and clay tools are great for drawing onto the inked Perspex. Allow the children to choose the coloured paper they would like to use to make their prints.
 They can draw directly onto the inked Perspex using a lollipop stick or a flat topped plastic clay tool and take a print. They quickly discover the mirror effect of this.
 When a sheet of paper is placed on the inked surface the children can draw on it, roll with a dry roller and lift it to see their drawing as a print. 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. 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 pictures/photographs of buildings and interesting skylines, e.g., Hundertwasser's House.

Extension Activities:

The children could mask out areas of the inked Perspex to create a stencil and take a print. These stencils can be any shape and when the print is taken the stencil can be lifted and used to make a positive print on another sheet.

The children can make posters using the masking-out technique. The area(s) for the text can be masked out (using any shapes the children think might add interest to the poster), the print made and when it is dry the text can be added. Masking out areas could also allow the children to make interesting prints to use as frames for photographs of for their written work.

ICT Possibilities:

If making a poster using the masking-out technique, the text could be written using Word Art on the computer.

If using the print as a frame for written work, this could also be done on the computer using Word or Word Art.

Using the I Am An Artist DVD:

The *Print* programmes on the DVD offer opportunities to see children making monoprints, by drawing on the Perspex and using the masking-out technique.

Note:

I found that keeping a supply of damp cloths on the tables was helpful for wiping down the Perspex between prints, they can be rinsed out regularly by the children themselves. It saves a lot of messing during the class. I also found it very helpful to cover the tables with newspaper as the inks are very sticky and can leave marks.

This lesson could also be done with 5th to 6th Classes.

Relevant Artists:

Hundertwasser

Other artists you think relevant

Relevant Websites:

These sites contain lots of photographs and information about Hundertwasser's House in Vienna. It is very interesting and, I think, beautiful.

http://www.outbackphoto.com/places/2000/20001022_Hundertwasser.html

The Hundertwasser House is an apartment house in Vienna, Austria, designed by the Austrian artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser. It features undulating floors, a roof covered with earth and grass, and large trees growing from inside the rooms, with limbs extending from windows.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hundertwasserhaus>