

## Print Lesson with 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> Classes

### ‘Relief Prints: Making Seasonal Prints and/or Cards’

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

**Objective:** *Use a variety 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:** (1) *Sort, describe, compare and name 2-D shapes: square, rectangle, triangle, circle, semicircle (p.49)*

(2) *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)  
Heavy card or small hand-sized blocks of wood or mdf  
Draught excluder (available from hardware shops)  
Scissors  
Blue, red, yellow, white and black poster paint and/or blue, red, yellow, white and black water based printing inks  
Palettes or plates for mixing colours  
Perspex or tiles for rolling out the paint or printing inks  
Water containers  
Brushes  
Rollers  
J-cloths (or old tea-towels/towels cut into face-cloth sizes)

**Stimulus:** Explain the relief print-making technique to the children, and show them how to apply the draught excluder to the block of wood or card to make a raised relief printing block. *Do a very simple version of this or the children will copy your design.*  
Depending on the season, have a discussion with the children about the things that remind them of that time of year. It could be Halloween, Easter, 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/?" (Replace with Christmas tree/star/Santa/snowman, snowflake, Halloween pumpkin/witch/cat, as appropriate.) Could you make these shapes on the blocks of wood using the draught excluder?

**Activity:** Allow the children to choose the coloured paper they would like to use to make their prints. Encourage them to experiment by using different inks/paints on a selection of coloured paper. 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. They will enjoy explaining how they 'made' the secondary and tertiary colours by mixing the primaries and how they achieved the patterns and shapes with the relief blocks. 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 printing blocks to represent logos of their own designs. These could be for items of clothing, sweet bars, sports clubs or other personal interests.

The children could also use polystyrene (trays used to pack fruit in supermarkets) to make relief prints. They draw their designs onto the polystyrene, pushing the pencil into the surface to indent it. Roll the colour onto the polystyrene and take the print. The children will see the mirror effect of the print, so any writing will have to be done in reverse.

Elastic bands pulled over the blocks make great geometric shapes. They can be removed easily and washed for further use.

Pipe cleaners and string can be stuck on the blocks by older children to make designs.

Some children might like to cut their design from thick card and stick this onto the block. Corrugated card can be cut and placed on the block to create interesting patterns.

**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 the draught excluder.

**Note:** This lesson can be done by any class in the school, it is so simple the Infants can manage it by themselves and the Senior Classes can be more adventurous with their designs.

**Relevant Artists:** Katsushika Hokusai

**Relevant Websites:** The Washington Printmakers Gallery site explains the relief print-making technique using wood or lino. Explain to the children that they are doing the opposite of this by building up their design rather than cutting away the wood or lino.

[http://www.washingtonprintmakers.com/media\\_pull\\_1.html](http://www.washingtonprintmakers.com/media_pull_1.html)

This site shows prints by Hokusai as well as giving you a brief biography.  
<http://www.andreas.com/hokusai.html>