

Printing Animals

2 DAYS

Principle: Print Making

Concept: Print making is an exciting way to make art! Art is a vehicle with which cultures have used to portray stories, legends, and myths.

Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to introduce students to the basics of print making, etching, stamping and pulling a print.

By lesson's end, students should:

- Know that there are many ways to make a print, including rubber stamping and block printing.
- Know how to impress a design into Styrofoam for a print
- Know that their designs must be made in reverse (*letters and numbers must be written backwards to appear correctly on their prints*)
- How to use a brayer
- How to "pull" a print
- How to make a stamp

Supplies:

DAY 1

- ✓ Newsprint for thumbnail sketches
- ✓ Printing Inks
- ✓ Brayers
- ✓ Glass to roll the ink on
- ✓ Styrofoam trays or foam paper cut flat to 6"x9" pieces
- ✓ White drawing paper, cut to 6" x 9". 3 per child.
- ✓ Dull pencils for impressing the print design in the trays

DAY 2

- ✓ Construction paper in a variety of colors cut to 12"x15"
- ✓ Glue
- ✓ Pencils
- ✓ Adhesive backed foam paper cut into 2" x 2" pieces, (2 per student)
- ✓ 2" x2" wood blocks for making stamps (2 per student)
(If you can't get wooden blocks, you can use 2" x 2" pieces of cardboard or foam core)
- ✓ printing inks, brayers, glass plates
- ✓ Paper towels

Pre-Class Prep:

Make sure you have a lot of parent volunteers. The second grade classes have been studying other cultures. Please talk to your teacher about showing works of art from that culture that depict animals. The students should have chosen the animal they will be printing in class and they should have made a sketch in class. They should choose an animal that had qualities they admire.

You might want to bring in some animal crackers for the fun of it!

Set-up for Day 1:

- Have newsprint and pencils on the tables, ready for students to use.
- At the head table, have the Styrofoam trays ready.
- Set out glass plates, brayers, and white paper in the middle of the tables.
- At the back table, inks laid out and ready to distribute onto their glass plates.

Set-up for Day 2:

- Pass out the student's animal prints that they made in the prior class.
- Set out the 12" x 15" colored construction paper
- Place glue, scissors, flexi-cut squares, and cardboard squares on the tables.

Prints: none

Samples: See Second Grade Art Folder

Lesson Day 1:

Demonstration: Share samples from the art folder to give students an overview of what they will be doing today. Explain that they are making "prints" by:

1. Impressing a picture or design into a piece of Styrofoam
2. Covering their impressed picture with ink
3. Pressing a piece of paper over the inked design
4. Pulling the print off the plate

Be sure to explain that the lines they press into the Styrofoam will be come out white, while the areas that are not pressed, such as the background and the areas inside the lines they've impressed, will be covered with color. Check to see if they can see that on the sample(s).

Now demo the process for the class, as you work through the steps, be sure to explain the following:

- You must not press too hard into the Styrofoam with the pencils or it will poke a hole clear through the tray. Conversely, too little pressure will create shallow lines the fill with ink and won't show up on the print.
- The image they impress will be printed "in reverse", to any letters or numbers (use some in your design to illustrate this) they might choose to incorporate will have to be written in reverse order (i.e. "cat" would have to be impressed "t a c") and backwards (i.e. an capital "E" would have to be impressed backwards so it looks more like a "3").

- Point out again how the lines you impressed show up white on the print, but the background and areas inside the lines are filled with color.
- Note that the more lines you draw, the more detail your picture will have, but too many lines can make your picture “busy” and hard to recognize.

Students: Step 1: Thumbnails and Styrofoam Trays

Have the students draw one or more thumbnail sketches of a design they would like to use for a print. Encourage them to incorporate textural elements like stripes, dots, squiggles and other patterns into their animal pictures. When they have a design they want to use, they are ready to begin impressing it into a Styrofoam tray.

- Be sure they write their names on the back ***before*** inking!

Step 2: Inking the Trays & Pulling the Prints

Have students choose the color(s) they’d like to use on their prints. Show them how to roll the ink evenly on their trays. Encourage the student to use more than one color on their print. Using one or two colors per plate the inks mix beautifully and can yield fantastic results in combination, such as royal and turquoise or fuchsia and orange, etc. They will be able to make at least 3 prints using varied colors. Suggest using colors that will intermix to create a third color, for example, if they make a yellow print first, they might want to try using blue next as it will mix with the ink on the plate and make green.

Check to be sure their names are written on the backside of their drawing paper and then have them lay their papers in their trays and with their fingers, rub evenly over the entire surface of the paper as it sits in the tray. Have them *carefully* peel back the paper, lifting it off the tray. This is called “pulling a print”. Let them make at least 3 prints from their design using different colors. Have them title their art and write this on a label and stick to the back of the paper.

Be careful not to slide the paper around in the tray or the ink will smear over the white areas and the design will be lost!

Lesson Day 2:

Have the students look over their animal prints that they made in the previous class, and have them choose the best one. Now have the students choose a piece of colored construction paper that is most aesthetically pleasing with their print. Now have the students glue down their print in the middle of the page.

Now they are ready to make stamps. Each student will make 2 stamps. Their stamp designs can be very simple or very detailed. Patterns and abstract shapes or animal prints usually produce the best results. Encourage students to use a variety of lines and sizes in creating their shapes. A simple geometric design works very well for stamping.

Have students draw their designs into the foam stamps with a dull pencil. Now that the stamps are created the students can ink the stamps with the brayers and press them around the boarder of their animal print. Place a small amount of printing ink on each glass plate. The students will be able to share the brayers if they choose the same color. The students should use 2 to 3 colors for their stamps. Suggest using a contrasting color on the construction paper so it will show up, for example, if they have black construction paper for their background, yellow, white or orange ink will show up well on the black paper. The students can blot their stamps on paper towels before they change colors. They may also share their stamps with their neighbor if they want more designs on their pictures.

Have the students title their work on a label and stick it to the back of their piece. They can take their stamps home with them after they wipe them dry with paper towels.

Instructions for Instructors

Vocabulary:

- Printing** - to make a copy by impressing paper against an inked surface
- Impressing** - to apply with pressure so as to imprint
- Pulling** - to print by impression
- Brayer** - a printer's hand inking roller