



LINOLEUM BLOCK PRINTING

Developed by Lauren
McCausland & Jennifer Foster

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June 2017



Summary: Students will learn to use various carving, coloring, and printing techniques to create linoleum prints on paper and fabric. Linoleum printing is a form of relief printing involving a subtractive process.

Grade/ Level: 4th grade and up

Time Frame: Total of 10 hours

Materials:

Linoleum Blocks* (pre- cut into 1" x 4" and 4" by 4" pieces)

Linoleum blocks are thick soft cork linoleum incised or carved in relief with a design, pattern, or pictorial motif, and used in print making

Printing paper*

Block Printing Ink*

Inking Plates*

Linoleum Cutters*

A sharp knife with V-shaped or U-shaped gouges attached at the tip, used to carve the imagery.

Brayers*

A hand roller used in printmaking techniques to spread ink evenly onto the image surface prior to printing

Spoons (used as a baren)

Fabric paint

Canvas bags

Gel pens & Fabric pens

* These materials are included in the KAC Munartet Project Arts Ed Box

Standards

Alaska Content Standards for the Arts

- A) Create:** A student should be able to imagine and develop artistic ideas and work.
- B) Present:** A student should be able to interpret and share artistic work.
- C) Respond:** A student should be able to understand and evaluate how the arts convey meanings.
- D) Connect:** A student should be able to relate artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context.

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Daily Schedule

Day 1

Start with welcome and introductions.

Introduce block printing by giving a brief overview of the history of linoleum printing. Linoleum was invented and used as a floor covering in the late 1800s. As printmakers using wood blocks looked for easier and less expensive ways of block printing, they turned to the new product. The word "linoleum" dates to the mid-19th century and combines the Latin word for flax, "linum" with the Latin word for oil, "oluem". When artists such as Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso started using linoleum in the early 1900s, its popularity grew.

Show the students examples of wallpaper made with linoleum prints, prints made by famous artists (ex. Picasso), and books that are illustrated using block prints.

Go over carving safety. It is important for students to carve away from their bodies and to watch their hand placement to avoid any injuries. Always keep the block holding hand behind your carving hand.

Have students begin to practice carving on bookmark sized linoleum strips (1" by 4"). Students may lightly sketch their designs on the linoleum, or may sketch their designs on paper and transfer to the block. Ask students to consider the subtractive concept so that their carving leaves the image they wish to see printed.

Begin printing bookmarks using ink, inking plates, and brayers. Consistently ink your block with brayer. Align your paper. Press and hold your paper down, image up. Rub the whole image consistently with the spoon. Hold the edges of your paper and pull back printed image.

Break for a snack & movement activity.

Have students begin to sketch ideas for their 4" x 4" print.

Clean up and end day with students work reflections.

For reflection hang students art on the wall. Ask the students which prints they like and why? What worked and what didn't while they were working on their own pieces? Is there anything they want to do differently?

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Day 2

Welcome and station setup.

Transfer sketches to linoleum blocks.

Begin carving and printing. Ask students to create a five-print edition of their print and aspire to make the prints identical. The Number (e.g. 1/5) goes on the far left directly at the edge of the print, not at the edge of the page. The Title goes in the center of the print. Have the artists sign their names on the far right of the print.

Break for snack and movement activity.

Continue to have students work on printing. Clean up and end day with student reflection

Day 3

Welcome and station setup.

Have students continue to work on their prints and start on 2nd carving.

Introduce finishing techniques (coloring in with gel pens, printing on top of a finished print, framing)

Snack and movement activity.

Begin fabric printing.

Clean up and end day with student reflections.



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Day 4

Welcome and station setup.

Have students complete their final prints within the first hour so that they dry by the end of the class.

Add finishing touches to prints and bags with gel pens and fabric pens.

Snack and movement activity.

Finish framing work.

Have students choose two prints for final art show with parents.

Parent art show and student reflections on class.

Assessment

Understanding of the block printing process. This can be observed during the lessons and will be shown during the final art show when students discuss their process and prints.

