

Print Shop

Curriculum Strand: Print

Objective

Explore and experiment with a variety of printmaking techniques and materials.

Materials

The basic materials needed to explore the print-making techniques as outlined here are:

- | blank card shapes;
- | found objects;
- | newsprint paper;
- | sponges;
- | water based printing ink;
- | cardboard (for stencils);
- | scissors;
- | stencil brushes;
- | old tooth brushes;
- | blocks (wood, tile, lino, etc);
- | draught excluder;
- | rubber rollers;
- | sheets of acetate, perspex, etc;
- | masking tape;
- | glues;
- | drawing tools;
- | computer;
- | art software;
- | scanner;
- | colour printer.

Curriculum Ideas

What can be more personal than a home-made card for that special occasion. Consider setting up a print making corner in your classroom and getting the children to explore the variety of simple printmaking techniques outlined in the curriculum to produce cards for the Christmas season.

Print with Found Objects

Found objects can be

categorised into three basic groups

- | body parts eg finger;
- | natural materials eg leaf;
- | manufactured materials eg lego.

Basically anything can be used to create a printed image.

Ask the children to think about and collect objects that might be used to create particular lines and shapes.

Roll some printing ink onto a flat non-porous surface (such as a piece of acetate), press objects into the ink, lift and press onto the surface you want to print onto. Alternatively roll ink from a roller onto the found object and then print.

Sponge Printing

(Card 1) Roll out your printing inks again, press pieces of cut/torn sponge into the inks and print a pattern/image onto a chosen surface. Avoid using commercial pre-cut sponge shapes.

Stencilling

(Card 2) In stencilling, shapes are cut from cardboard to give either a positive or a negative. Printing ink is rolled out again and a stencil brush is inked up and used either to print through or around the cut shapes. Sponges can be used as an alternative to the brush – children must be taught to dab rather than to brush, so as to avoid ink being pushed under the stencil shape. Spraying inks with an old



Card 1 Sponge Print



Card 2 Stencil Print

Cards used for illustration here have been created by scanning completed prints made using the outlined techniques, printing them out using a colour printer and gluing them into commercial pre-cut card shapes.

n Key Message: to ensure development in children's art we need to do more revising, revisiting, repeating and redoing.

toothbrush gives very effective results.

Concentrate on using basic shapes and on overprinting (allowing a print to dry and then printing on it for a second time) rather than on trying to cut out complex shapes.

Block Printing

(Card 3) This is also referred to as stamp printing. Traditionally these blocks were often made by gluing string to blocks of wood. A very handy alternative material to use is commercially produced draught excluder that is available in most hardware outlets – as this is self adhesive.

A chosen design is drawn onto a wooden block, a ceramic tile or any other material to which the draught excluder will stick. The draught excluder is then stuck down on the lines of the chosen design.

The block is then pressed into ink or rolled with ink and pressed onto the surface to be printed on.

Monoprinting

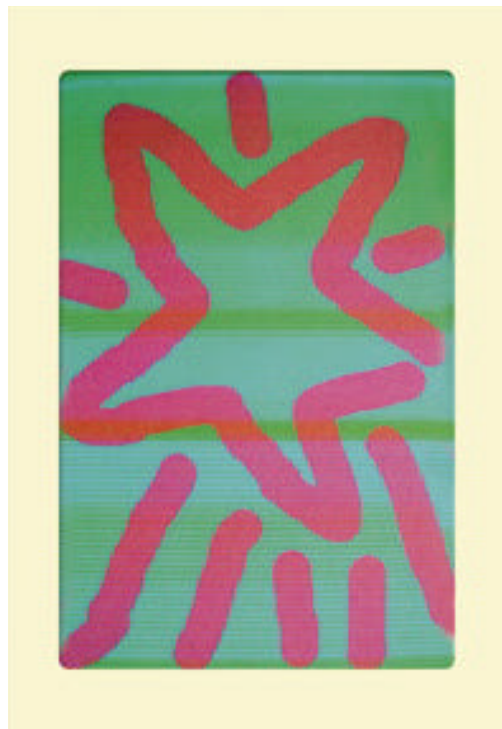
(Card 4) In monoprinting a sheet of acetate (or other similar material) is taped down on a table top with masking tape. A thin layer of printing ink is then rolled onto this and a design/ pattern/image is drawn directly into the ink with a drawing tool such as a cotton bud. Paper is laid down over this, rubbed and lifted to reveal the print.

Alternatively, the paper is placed on the inked surface first and a design drawn on the back of the paper.

A third method involves cutting/tearing paper shapes that are laid out on the inked acetate – this is called masking out.

Using ICT

(Card 5) Designs for cards can be created by children using simple art software packages such as Primary Colours (part



Card 3 Block Print



Card 4 Monoprint

of Primary Toolkit) or basic draw programmes that are included in Microsoft. Children need to practice using the various tools included in these programmes – draw tool, fill tool, spray tool, etc.

n Compiled by the visual arts team of the Primary Curriculum Support Programme. Visit www.pfsp.ie for ideas on print and on Christmas.

n Other techniques to try out include:
Marbling;
Impressing;
Rubbings;
Wax Resist.



Card 5 ICT Print