

4th and 5th Grade – Art at Home

Print a painting

Printmaking: Printmaking has helped shape culture in all parts of the world. It is an ancient artform and a form of communication, such as newspapers, magazines. To make a print, the artist typically creates an image on a flat surface. The surface is then inked, and pressed onto paper to create an original print. By repeating the printing process, the artist is able to create multiple original works of art.

The first prints are attributed to prehistoric times, when humans placed used their hands as stencils by placing them on cave walls and blowing charcoal or pigment around them to create repeatable images. In approximately 500 BC, Sumerians carved images on cylinder seals that could be pressed into wet clay, thereby creating multiple imprints to indicate the ownership of goods. Chinese scholars created rubbings from carved texts around 200 AD, an early form of printing that could be done on paper and silk.

In this lesson you will create an image on foam paper, color it with a marker or many watercolor markers if you have them at home, and make a print of that image on paper.

Materials: Watercolor markers (no permanent markers like sharpies), paper, foam paper, cup with water or a spray bottle mister, pencil.

Skills: Drawing, hand skills, knowledge of printmaking, mirror reverse images, creating multiple prints

Procedure:

Discuss – What is a print? Have you made a print before? You make fingerprints every day. How are newspapers printed?

Take out your paper and think about a drawing you would like to make. You will only do a line drawing (Adding value or shading will not work for this kind of print). You may look around your house for ideas or you can just draw a design.

Draw your design on paper with a pencil. Be sure that your design does not include tiny or intricate designs, as the foam paper will not accept fine details. Keep your lines open.

Once you are happy with your design, go to a window and tape your design to the window. Put the foam paper on top of the design. Now you will see your lines on your drawing through the foam paper.

Using a blunt pencil, firmly draw the lines from your paper onto the foam paper. These lines will not print. In fact your pencil line will become white lines on your final print.

Check to be sure all your pencil lines are firmly gouged without tearing the foam. Now you are ready to color your foam paper with markers.

You can use one colored marker...included in your package, or many colors if you have them at home.

Once the foam paper is completely finished, fill a cup with water or find a spray bottle mister with just water.

Lay your foam paper out, colored side up and gently mist until your work is wet but not running. If you don't have a spray bottle, dip all five finger into a cup, let it drip a second then flick your work with the water from your fingers. You will need to repeat this many times. The trick is to have fine small drips, not big globby drips. Be careful. If you make a mess out of your work, you can wash it off, dry it and start again. Flick the water gently and keep repeating. There is no hurry!!!

Now take your paper and place it on the wet foam paper. Gently smooth the paper over your work. Let the paper soak. You will see the color coming through the paper when it has soaked enough. There is no hurry. If you hurry this process the colors will run.

Now pull your print! Turn the paper over and see your gorgeous print. Now make another!