

Block Printing

IMPRINT ON THE WORLD
Grand Prize • Grades 4-6



“Lonely Bird”

Norma Vidana

Lesson Plan

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Theme

Nature's Imprint On Our World

Purpose

Far beyond what we realize, nature has a large impact on our daily lives. Too often we take nature and its beauty for granted. Students are to interpret the importance and beauty of nature through a single-color block print. Using what they have learned in a previous paper-making lesson, students will also use a variety of papers from around the world in their projects.

Materials

- Speedball® Linoleum Blocks
- Speedball V- and U-Shaped Gouge Blades
- Speedball Brayers
- Speedball Water-Soluble Block Printing Inks
- Speedball Bench Hook
- Speedball Baren
- Inking Trays
- Drawing Paper
- Block Printing Paper
- Pencils
- Ballpoint Pen
- Masking Tape
- Carbon Paper

Time Required

Nine 45-minute sessions

Process

SESSION 1

Introduce students to block printing by showing them prints by former students and various artists. After discussing the prints, explain the block-printing process. Discuss the theme and purpose for the project, and any ideas students may have. Students will begin sketching ideas for their prints.

SESSION 2

Each student will select a sketch to use and make a final, more refined drawing, then transfer it, using carbon paper between the drawing and linoleum. The drawing is taped to the linoleum to prevent shifting while transferring. Use a ballpoint pen to trace the design, to assure it remains on linoleum.

SESSIONS 3-5

Demonstrate proper cutting techniques and use of linoleum cutters. Review safety rules to avoid injury. Remind students to always cut away from their hands, and allow them to begin cutting as soon as they are ready.

SESSIONS 6-7

Demonstrate printing procedures and proper use of tools, including inking tray, brayer, bench hook, and baren. Students will do a test print first, then follow with a series of at least five prints. Students are encouraged to experiment with ink colors, paper colors, and printing surfaces. A variety of handmade papers and rice papers are available for the students' use.

SESSIONS 8-9

Review the prints with the students and choose the best ones for mounting. Students will mount their prints on color papers and display for group critique.

Teaching Aids

Prints made by former students and local artists. A variety of books and magazines about nature, such as *National Geographic*.

Evaluation

The students will be evaluated on their:

- Printing Technique
- Composition Design
- Incorporation of theme and purpose
- Willingness to experiment with materials
- Craftsmanship

