



## TAKE AND MAKE: Printmaking



Watch on YouTube by entering this URL or scanning the QR Code: <https://tinyurl.com/reliefprint>

**What is printmaking?** Printmaking is a style of art that involves transferring an image from a printing plate onto another surface using ink. The printing plate could be anything from a woodblock to a rubber stamp to a silk screen to a household object. You can typically reuse a printing plate over and over to make many projects from just one plate. The surface it's pressed onto could be anything from a sheet of paper to a wall to a t-shirt. There are many kinds of printmaking, including intaglio printing, stenciling, relief printing, and planographic printing. In this project, we'll be making **relief prints**, which are easy to create at home with materials you might already have on hand.

**What is a relief print?** "Relief printing is the process of making prints from a raised surface. First the artist cuts away the unwanted part of the surface. Only the design remains. Then the artist puts ink on the raised surface. The ink is then transferred to paper or another material. Common surfaces used for relief printing plates are wood, linoleum, and metal." Source: Hanson, Anders. *Cool Print Making: The Art of Creativity for Kids*. 2009. <https://search-ebSCOhost.com.ppld.idm.oclc.org/login.aspx?direct=true&db=cfh&AN=43883366&site=hcrc-live>

**What's in the kit?** Here's what we've included to get you started with printmaking:

- Foam Sheet
- Paint
- Foam Brush
- Cardboard
- Paper
- Glue Stick

**Prepare Your Design:** For this project, you'll be building your design by mounting your foam on your piece of cardboard with the glue stick. This will create the raised surface described above. While you can mount the whole piece of foam to your cardboard, you can also trace and cut out shapes like we did, which creates white space behind your design. If you cut out shapes, make sure they are big and simple. You'll add more complexity into your design later.



**Add Detail to Your Design:** Once you have your shapes cut out, you can add detail to your design using a ballpoint pen or a dull pencil. Using one of these tools, you'll essentially carve into the foam by drawing in details. You may need to go over your design multiple times – you want your impressions to be deep without cutting all the way through the foam. Once you've completed your design, or "plate," you're ready to make your prints!

**"Ink" Your Plate:** Using your foam brush and your acrylic paint, apply an even layer of paint across your foam design. You can use a paper plate or palette for your paint, but we like the foam brushes because you can apply a dot of paint directly to the brush. It's okay if you get a little on the cardboard, but, for the most part, try to keep it on the foam. The amount of paint you apply will affect the look of your final prints and how quickly they dry, so feel free to experiment with more and less paint.



**Pull Your Print:** Now, place a piece of paper onto your inked plate and smooth down with your hands – make sure to apply firm, pressure without moving the paper and get into all the nooks and crannies of your design. Then, carefully remove the paper from your plate, revealing your finished print. Your plate can be used multiple times – gently wipe the foam with a wet paper towel between uses.



Now sketch out your design, cut out your foam, and make a relief print of your own! If you share your finished prints on social media, be sure to tag us with #PPLDTakeandMake and #ArtsOctober.



### Library Resources & Links

Library Books, eBooks, and Databases:

- PPLD's Hobbies and Crafts Reference Center contains all sorts of resources to get you started making: <https://web.p.ebscohost.com/hcrc/search/basic?vid=0&sid=c0e6a862-6dee-4172-be33-d2fda204ec69%40redis>.
- Bunkers, Traci. *Print and Stamp Lab*. eBook.
- Joyce, Anna. *Stamp, Stencil, Paint: Making Extraordinary Patterned Projects by Hand*. Print book.
- Schmidt, Christine. *Print Workshop: Hand-Printing Techniques + Truly Original Projects*. Print book.
- Schmidt, Christine. *Yellow Owl's Little Prints: Stamp, Stencil, and Print Projects to Make for Kids*. Print book.
- Young, Elise. *Block Print for Beginners*. Available as a print or eBook.
- Kanopy video: Printmaking: Relief and Intaglio. <https://www.kanopy.com/en/product/525744>. Log in with your PPLD library card.

