

On the Wall Motifs

In this project, students select a commercial business for which they will design wallpaper. Students consider images, symbols and colors that will best represent the company. The repeated “wallpaper” patterns are made with a stamp designed and carved by the students. A bakery is a good example: In a bakery you would find a variety of pastries, cakes and other baked goods. The colors would be bright and colorful, mimicking icing and fruit, and could be offset with dark browns for chocolate.

This fun project will help children understand how simple images communicate a message, whether in business or elsewhere.

Grade Levels 4-6

Note: instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

Preparation

1. Teach students safe methods for working with linoleum cutting tools. Always use a bench hook and cut away from the body and hands.
2. Explain to students about positive and negative space. Any cuts made into the linoleum will appear as “negative space” on the printed paper. Images, when printed, will be a mirror image of how they appear on the stamp.

Process

1. Students draw their design directly on the linoleum. Draw one image per linoleum sheet. Students should make at least two or three stamps.
2. Using the proper methods and working on the bench hook, students carve their designs into the linoleum.
3. When all the linoleum stamps are complete, it is time for inking and stamping. The bench hook will also be used for the inking plate. Clean off any linoleum scraps and squeeze a small amount of ink onto the bench hook. Roll the brayer back and forth and side to side until the brayer is evenly and thinly coated with ink. Roll the inked brayer onto the linoleum block in the areas where color is desired. Since these stamps are small, use only one or two colors per stamp. Students can apply ink with a brush to small areas requiring a different color. It is a good idea to dedicate a single color per inking plate so colors don't become mixed and muddy.



Materials

[Blick® Wonder-Cut® Linoleum](#), 3" x 4", package of 12 (40417-1011); share one package among four students

[Speedball® Linoleum Cutter Handle](#) (40201-0000); one handle per student

[Speedball® Lino Set No. 1](#) (40203-1009); one handle per student; share the cutters among three students

[Blick® Water-Soluble Block Printing Ink](#), assorted colors (40305-); share approximately 15-oz bottle across class

[Scratch-Art® Rubber Brayers](#), Soft, 2-1/2" (41103-1000); one per student

[Inking Plate/Bench Hook](#), 9" x 7" (42904-0000); one per student

[Blick® Construction Paper](#) 12" x 18", 50-sheet package of assorted colors (11409-1006) or White (11409-1026); share across class

Optional Materials

[Pacon® Neopolitan Construction Paper](#) 12" x 18", 50-sheet package (11424-1006)

Process, continued

4. Since this is a wallpaper design, the paper should be filled in an even pattern with alternating stamped designs. On the 12" x 18" sheet of paper, students begin in one corner of the paper and work their way down. The result will be a sample section of wallpaper.

Option

- Use the Pacon Neopolitan paper or other paper that already has a design on it to enhance the pattern.
- Mix colors of ink on the stamp with a brush to create interesting visual effects.

National Standards for Visual Arts Education

Content Standard #1 Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

K-4 Students use different media, techniques and processes to communicate ideas, experiences and stories.

5-8 Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas.

Content Standard #3 Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas

K-4 Students select and use subject matter, symbols and ideas to communicate meaning.

5-8 Students integrate visual, spatial and temporal concepts with content to communicate intended meaning in their artworks.

