

Zara's Printmaking Masterclass

Learning objective: To understand the key techniques, tools, and terminology used in the art of printmaking.

Read the front of each card to test your knowledge of printmaking. Flip it over (or check the answer provided) to see if you are correct. Zara the zebra is here to help you master these artistic patterns!

What is a 'relief print'?

A type of printmaking where the raised areas of a block are inked and pressed onto paper, while the carved-out areas remain white.

What is a brayer used for in printmaking?

A brayer is a hand-held roller used to spread an even layer of ink across the surface of a printing block.

True or False: When you make a print, the final image is a mirror image of the design carved on the block.

True. Because the block is turned over to press onto the paper, everything appears backwards compared to the original design.

What do we call the 'plate' or 'block' in printmaking?

It is the surface (like wood, lino, or polystyrene) that the artist carves or builds a design onto to create the print.

What is an 'impression' in printmaking?

An impression is the final result—the actual print transferred onto the paper after the inked block has been pressed down.

Why do we use ink instead of paint for printmaking?

Printing ink is specifically made to be tacky and thick so it sticks to the block surface without drying too quickly or running.

What is a 'registration' mark?

A mark used to ensure that if you are using multiple colours, each layer of the print lines up perfectly in the same place every time.

How can you add 'texture' to a print without carving?

You can use the 'collage' method, where you stick different materials (like string or cardboard) onto a base to create a raised surface for printing.

What is an 'edition' in the world of printmaking?

An edition is a set of identical prints made from the same block.

Why is it important to clean your brayer after use?

If ink dries on the brayer, it becomes bumpy and hard, which will ruin the smooth finish of your future prints.

What is an 'overlay' in printmaking?

An overlay is when you print one colour or design on top of another one that has already dried.

If a print is 'bold', what does that usually mean?

It means the design has strong, clear shapes and a high contrast between the inked areas and the paper.