

Zara's Printmaking Workshop: Exploring Relief Printing

Learning objective: To understand the process of relief printmaking and identify the materials and techniques used to create a repeated pattern.

Zara the Zebra loves spotting patterns in nature! She is designing her own block print. Read the steps of the relief printing process below and sort them into the correct order (1-6). Then, use the word bank to identify the correct tools for her project.

Word bank: brayer · block · ink · pressure · relief · mirror image

1. 1. Sequence the steps (1-6): [] Carve the design into the block; [] Apply ink using a roller; [] Place paper onto the inked block; [] Apply even pressure; [] Carefully peel back the paper; [] Plan and draw your design. (6 marks)

2. 2. Why must we remember that text or letters will look like a 'mirror image' when printed? (2 marks)

3. 3. What is the name of the tool used to spread the ink evenly across the surface of the printing block? (1 mark)

4. 4. If you wanted to make a print that costs £1.50 to produce, and you made 10 prints, what would be the total cost of materials? (2 marks)

5. 5. Explain why relief printing is a great way to create a repeating pattern. (2 marks)

Draw: In the space below, draw a simple geometric shape that Zara could carve into a printing block. Remember to draw it as if it were ready to be carved (think about which parts would be cut away to leave the shape raised).



Extension challenge: Imagine you are running a small stall selling your prints. If you sell each print for £3.00 and it costs you £0.50 per print to make, how much profit would you make if you sold 12 prints? Show your calculation.