

Zara's Patterned Printmaking Workshop

Learning objective: To understand the process of relief printmaking, explore textural transfer, and create original patterned designs using repeated motifs.

Read each question carefully and apply your knowledge of printmaking techniques. Think like an artist—consider how textures, pressure, and ink application change the final print.

In relief printmaking, the artist carves away the parts of the block they do not want to show, leaving the raised areas to be inked. When pressed onto paper, the raised surface creates a mirror image of the original design. Zara the Zebra loves using this technique to create bold, striped patterns.

Word bank: motif · brayer · relief · ink · texture · transfer · repeat · pressure

1. Zara is designing a square block with a triangle motif. Explain why she must carve the design in reverse if she wants the final print to show text or a specific direction. (2 marks)

2. What is the specific purpose of a brayer in the printmaking process? Describe how the amount of ink applied to the roller affects the final print. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast a 'relief print' with a simple drawing made using a pencil. How does the process change the way the final image looks on the page? (3 marks)

4. If you are printing a repeating pattern, justify why it is important to apply even pressure across the entire block when pressing it onto the paper. (2 marks)

5. What might happen to the quality of your print if the surface of your block is too smooth? Suggest a way to add texture to the block before inking it. (2 marks)

Draw: In the space below, sketch a design for a single 'motif' (a repeating shape) that you would use to create a jungle-themed print. Label which parts you would carve away (the negative space) and which parts you would keep raised (the positive space).



Extension challenge: Imagine you have been commissioned to design wallpaper for a library. Write a short paragraph explaining how you would use the 'repeat' technique to create a sense of harmony. If you were selling your prints, how would you calculate the cost of a set of 5 handmade prints if your materials cost £4.50 and you wanted to make a profit of £1.50 per print?