

Zara's Printmaking Masterclass

Learning objective: To identify key techniques and vocabulary associated with relief printmaking.

Join Zara the Zebra as she explores the textures and patterns of printmaking! Read each question carefully and select the best answer to test your knowledge.

Answer Key: 1. A (Brayer); 2. True; 3. Plate; 4. B (To create a raised surface); 5. False; 6. Ink; 7. A (Mirror image); 8. True; 9. Texture; 10. True. Greater Depth Analysis: When printmaking, the pressure applied determines the depth of the impression. If too much ink is used, the details clog; if too little is used, the image appears faint. The 'mirror image' effect occurs because the design on the plate is the reverse of the final print.

Word bank: brayer · relief · ink · plate · transfer · texture · impression · repeat

1. 1. What is the name of the special roller used to spread ink evenly? A) Brayer* B) Brush C) Sponge D) Palette (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: In relief printing, the parts of the plate that are cut away do not hold ink. (1 mark)

3. 3. What do we call the surface that holds the carved design before it is pressed onto paper? (1 mark)

4. 4. Why do we carve into a block in relief printing? A) To make it lighter B) To create a raised surface* C) To make it colourful D) To save ink (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: Printmaking is a process where you can only ever make one single copy of your artwork. (1 mark)

6. 6. Fill in the blank: You must apply a thin, even layer of _____ to your block to get a clear print. (1 mark)

7. 7. When you print a design, how does it appear compared to the original block? A) A mirror image* B) Exactly the same C) Larger D) Upside down (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: You can use everyday items like leaves or bubble wrap to create a 'found object' print. (1 mark)

9. 9. What artistic element are we highlighting when we use a leaf to make a print? (Hint: It's how the surface feels!) (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: A printmaker must always press down firmly and evenly to ensure the whole design transfers to the paper. (1 mark)

Draw: Zara wants to create a repeating pattern using a geometric shape. Draw a 3x3 grid and fill it with a block-print style design using only triangles and circles.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why a printmaker must carve in reverse if they want a word to appear correctly on the final paper. 2. Compare and contrast using a soft foam block versus a hard wooden block for carving. 3. Justify your answer: Is printmaking more about the finished product or the process of creating the plate? 4. What might happen if you apply too much pressure while using a brayer? 5. If you were commissioned to design a repeating wallpaper pattern, describe how you would ensure the edges of your prints align perfectly. 6. Propose a new 'found object' from your classroom that would make an interesting print and explain why.