

Zara's Patterned Printmaking Workshop

Learning objective: To explore the technique of printmaking by creating repeating patterns and textures inspired by natural forms.

Zara the Zebra loves to see patterns everywhere! Follow the steps below to design your own block print. You will be creating a relief print design that uses shapes, lines, and textures to create a repeating pattern.

Draw: Create a 'repeating tile' design in the frame below. Draw a 10cm x 10cm square. Inside the square, design a motif inspired by nature (e.g., a leaf, a flower, or a zebra stripe). Ensure your design touches all four edges of the square so that if you repeated it, the patterns would join up perfectly. Use thick, bold lines suitable for a printing block.



Label words: Relief · Repeat pattern · Texture · Block · Impression · Negative space · Symmetry · Ink

Steps:

1. Step 1: In the box below, draw a simple geometric shape (like a triangle or hexagon). Add a textured pattern inside the shape using only dots and zig-zag lines. Label your texture.
2. Step 2: Explain why artists must draw their design in reverse (a mirror image) if they are carving letters into their printing block.
3. Step 3: Compare and contrast a relief print with a standard pencil drawing. What is the main difference in how the image is created?

4. Step 4: Justify your choice of color palette. If you were printing a forest scene, which two colors would provide the best contrast?
5. Step 5: Label the 'Negative Space' on your drawing. Why is this space important for the overall design?
6. Step 6: What might happen if you applied too much ink to your printing block before pressing it onto the paper?