Grade 4 Art Assessment: The Art of Printmaking

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of printmaking techniques, tools, and the history of visual pattern-making.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of tools, textures, and techniques to answer. Ensure your explanations are clear and use accurate art terminology.

Zara the zebra loves to look for patterns in the natural world. She has noticed that when she presses a leaf into soft clay, it leaves a perfect shape behind. This is the basic principle of printmaking: transferring an image from one surface to another. Artists use various materials like wood, linoleum, or foam blocks to create 'relief' prints. By carving away the parts they want to stay white, they can ink the remaining raised areas to create bold, repeated designs.

Word bank: Relief · Brayer · Block · Impression · Texture · Overlapping · Registration · Mirror-image

1. Explain what a 'brayer' is and describe its specific role in the printmaking process. (2 marks)

2. Why must an artist consider 'mirror-image' when carving letters or words into a printing block? (3 marks)

3. Describe the difference between a 'relief' print and a 'mono-print'. (4 marks)

4. List two safety precautions you must follow when using carving tools to create a design on a printing block. (2 marks)

5. How does 'registration' help an artist when they are creating a print that uses more than one color? (4 marks)

6. Zara wants to create a repeating pattern inspired by nature. Explain the process of creating a successful print from start to finish. Include details about inking, applying pressure, and revealing your work. (5 marks)

7. Look at a piece of wallpaper or fabric. How can you tell if it was made using a printmaking process rather than being drawn by hand? (5 marks)

Draw: In the space below, design a simple geometric stamp that you could carve into a foam block. Shade the areas you would carve away (the negative space) and leave the area you would ink (the positive space) clear.

Extension challenge: Research a traditional method of printmaking from history (such as Japanese woodblock printing or Victorian wallpaper design). Write a short paragraph on how these methods influenced modern art. Total: /25