

Zara's Guide to Creative Printmaking

Get Inky! Explore the Art of the Print.

- A relief print is made by carving away the parts of a block you do not want to be colored, leaving the raised surface to hold the ink.
- A 'brayer' is the special roller tool used to spread an even layer of printing ink across your block.
- When you print an image, remember that the result will be a 'mirror image' of your design—this is very important if you are carving letters!
- You can create a 'matrix' using everyday objects like potatoes, sponges, or polystyrene tiles to make your own stamps.
- Pressure is key: apply firm, even pressure when pressing your paper onto the inked block to ensure a clear, crisp impression.

Did you know? Did you know? The earliest form of printmaking was woodblock printing, which originated in China over a thousand years ago! Artists carved intricate designs into wood, covered them in ink, and pressed them onto fabric or paper to create beautiful, repeating patterns.

Key vocabulary: Block · Relief · Brayer · Impression · Mirror Image · Matrix