

Zara's Guide to the Magic of Printmaking

Inky Fingers, Creative Minds: Make Your Mark!

- **What is relief printing?** It is a process where the raised areas of a surface are inked and pressed onto paper, leaving the lowered, carved areas blank.
- **How do we use a brayer?** A brayer is a specialised roller used to spread an even layer of ink across the surface of your printing plate.
- **Why is registration important?** Registration marks help you align your paper perfectly so that your prints are positioned exactly where you want them every time.
- **What makes a good matrix?** A matrix can be made from many materials like soft lino, wood, or even recycled polystyrene, provided it can hold a carved texture.
- **How does pressure affect an impression?** Firm, even pressure across the back of the paper ensures a crisp, clear image, while uneven pressure creates interesting, faded effects.

Did you know? Did you know that the earliest form of printmaking was used over a thousand years ago? Ancient artisans carved intricate designs into wooden blocks, inked them, and pressed them onto fabric to create beautiful, repeating patterns that could be recreated again and again!

Key vocabulary: Relief · Brayer · Matrix · Impression · Texture · Composition · Registration · Brayer