

Indian Woodblock Printing

“Wood block printing originated in China about 4,000 years ago, however, it was only in India where hand block printed textiles reached their highest visual expression and commercial potential.”

“Woodblock printing, one of India’s foremost crafts, deeply rooted in India’s ancient past, enjoys a strong visual identity worldwide. Indian block printed fabrics effortlessly span the spectrum of traditional pattern and dress, to modern urban style. The tradition of woodblock printing has continued to exist in a parallel universe, stubbornly resistant to industrialization, and, to this day artisans practice block printing without the aid of mechanization or computerization.”

ORIGINAL PROCESS

Read a detailed account of how the traditional woodblocks are created and printed at the following site:
<https://www.saffronmarigold.com/blog/wood-block-printing-fabric-india/>

INTEGRATION POSSIBILITIES

- Discuss and practice math translations: slide, flip, and rotate.
- Create a simple stamp with a symbol to represent a concept of study, then repeat it across a paper or piece of fabric.
- Use shapes to create a variety of math arrays. Explore math properties using these arrays (commutative, distributive, etc.)
- Look at woodblock printing from other countries. Compare and contrast the patterns.



- More . . .

Project

Rather than carving blocks of wood, you can make your own reusable stamp with basic materials that you can purchase locally. The craft foam and corrugated plastic hold up well to repeated stamping and washing.



MATERIAL OPTIONS

1. Paper
2. pencil
3. Stamp pads (VersaCraft works well on fabric)
4. Corrugated cardboard cut into 2" squares (or other size)
5. Sticky backed craft foam cut into 2" squares
6. printer paper cut into 2" squares
7. Craft foam shapes (optional for easy method)
8. Permanent marker (for easy method)
9. Scissors
10. Masking tape



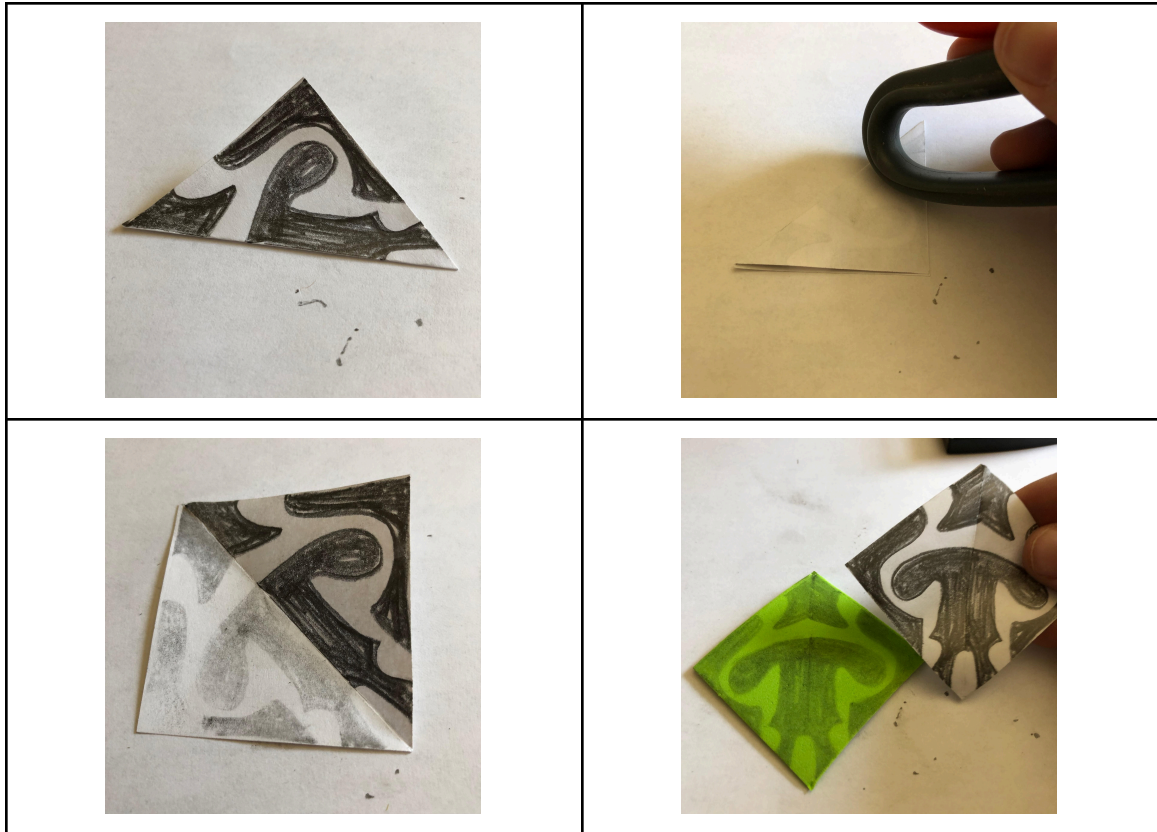
PROCESS

EASY METHOD

- Use a permanent marker to draw a line down the center of the corrugated square, creating two triangles. This will create a diagonal line of symmetry
- Select a few small foam shapes and arrange them onto the corrugated plastic to create a symmetrical pattern. For example, if you place a small triangle in the right corner, you will also place one in the left corner.
- When you are satisfied with the design, peel the backing papers and stick the shapes onto the corrugated plastic.

CHALLENGING METHOD

- Fold the 2" square in half diagonally. Use a pencil to draw a very simple design onto the triangle. Create the design with two or three shapes, not lines. The design should be simple and easy to cut out with scissors. Color in the positive shapes with the pencil.



- Fold the triangle so that the drawing is now on the inside. Use the handle of a pair of scissors or some other hard object to firmly rub the paper. Keep going until the design transfers onto the other half of the paper. If you place a piece of felt or craft foam under the paper the design will transfer better.
- Open the square and trace over the lines on both halves so that the design is mirrored over both sides of the paper. Then fill in the design on both sides with pencil.
- Now place the small paper face down onto the foam square. Firmly rub the paper again so the design transfers onto the foam.
- Carefully cut out the foam shapes and stick them onto the corrugated plastic square. Use the original design as a guide so you get all of the pieces in the right place.

STAMPING

- Make a simple masking tape handle on the back on the corrugated plastic to make it easier to use.
- Place a piece of felt or craft foam under the paper or fabric that you are printing on.



- Firmly press the stamp onto the stamp pad, then stamp it on to the paper, pressing down well.
- Continue inking and stamping. Turn the stamp as you go to create a rotating pattern.
- You can create a variety of patterns by rotating or sliding the stamp in different ways.
- You can create more variety by making a second stamp with a simple shape that compliments the first stamp. Overlap it onto your pattern using a different color.
- If you used a fabric compatible stamp pad and printed onto fabric, iron the printed design before you wash it. The heat can “set” the ink, making it permanent.

This website has a comparison of the permanence of many types of stamp pad inks on fabric.
<http://www.crafttestdummies.com/comparison-of-stamp-pad-inks-on-fabric/>

