

Create a Collagraph



Print-making is thought to have originated in China after the invention of paper in the 2nd century AD. This activity features a special kind of print-making called collagraphy, where flat materials are layered and glued onto a base, then painted and used to create a final finished print.

What You Need:

Pencil

Sketch paper

Cardboard

Various textured materials such as burlap, sandpaper, string, or fabric

Craft glue

Scissors

Tempera paint

White paper

Black fine point marker

Vocabulary: Plate, Layers, Relief and Wet paper

What You Do:

1. Students use scissors to begin cutting shapes out of the materials, using the sketch as a guide.
2. Next they layer the materials onto the cardboard base, securing them with craft glue. Reminder to think about how the different textures and shapes will look after they've been printed.
3. Set the collagraph aside, and let it dry for two or three hours.
4. Once it's dry, paint over the collagraph with tempera paints. Students can use as many colors as they want, using different colors for different parts of the painting.
5. Students then press the painted collagraph onto a sheet of paper to create her print. She can paint and print her collagraph as many times as she likes!
6. Set the prints aside to dry.
7. When dry, she can use a fine point marker and add details to finish the artwork.

Encourage students to keep experimenting and making new collagraphs. The possibilities are endless with the variety of available fabrics and textures. Sometimes changing one texture can give the print a completely different feel!