Nasco Education™ LESSON PLAN

Art

Developed with Wendy Goldsmith

Experimental Prints using Nasco Safety-Kut®

Volume 26 | Gr. 6–8

Time: 2–4 class periods

2 lessons in one
Project extension:
tree identification books

Standards

VA:Cr2.1.6a

Demonstrate openness in trying new ideas, materials, methods, and approaches in making works of art and design.

VA:Cr2.1.7a

Demonstrate persistence in developing skills with various materials, methods, and approaches in creating works of art or design.

VA:Cr2.3.8a

Select, organize,and design images and words to make visually clear and compelling presentations.

Objectives

Students will...

- Gain an understanding of the printing process by creating a print
- Enhance their ability to create a black and white graphic design
- Expand their approach to creating artwork by using experimental explorations

Materials list

- Nasco Hardcover Spiral Sketchbooks, 8½" x 11" (**9720396**)
- Nasco Safety-Kut® Blocks:
  4" x 6" (**9704655**)
  5" x 7" (**9739797**)
- Speedball® Lino Cutters Set (**9733406**)
- Nasco Construction Paper, 9" x 12", 50 sheets
  Assorted colors [**9727121(AB)**]
  Black [**9727121(A)**]
- Spectra® Deluxe Bleeding Art Tissue™, assorted 10 colors, 12" x 18", pkg. of 50 (**9701231**)
- Pacon® Super Heavyweight Tag Board, white, 9" x 12", pkg. of 100 (**9737901**)
- Black Tag Board, 8½" x 11" (**9722750**)
- Nasco Water-Soluble Block Printing Ink, 5-oz. Tube Set (**9728095**)
- Speedball® 4" Rubber Brayer
  Hard (**9734284**)
  Soft (**9701365**)

Project one

Directions

1. Have students view a variety of black and white prints. One of the resource books featuring a variety of prints that you may find helpful is *Hardlines* by Richard Mock, a publication from the Plains Art Museum. Included in this book are social commentary prints created by students of varying ages.

   Discuss the print examples you have gathered with your students and include the following vocabulary in your discussion:
   - Line variation
   - Negative and positive space
   - Balance

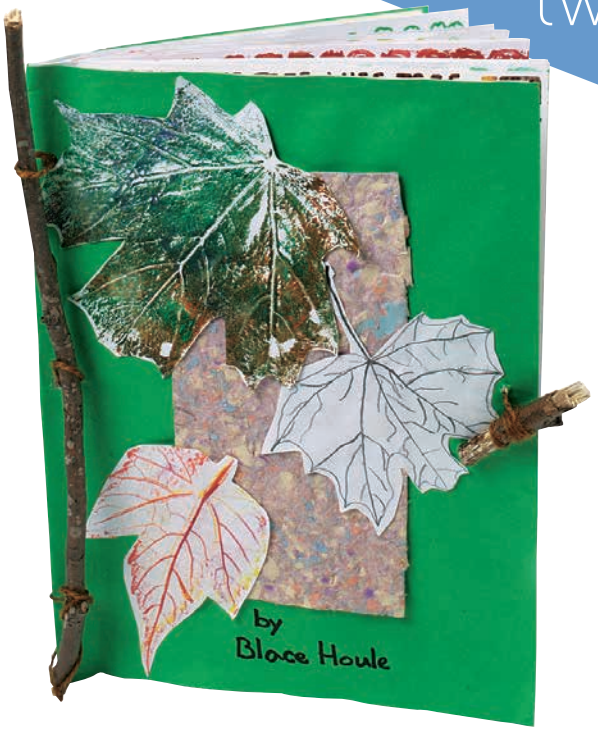
2. Have students develop and plan their designs, recording them in a journal they will keep in class.
3. Next, have students transfer their designs to Safety-Kut®. Using a #2 pencil, transfer graphite to the reverse side of the design. Then have them place their designs facedown on the surface of the print block. Using a thumb, a spoon back, or a ruler, have each student transfer their design to the surface of the Safety-Kut® by rubbing and applying slight pressure.
4. Review safety rules prior to allowing students to carve their designs. Emphasize how to use the linoleum cutters safely, remembering to always cut away from your other hand.
5. Demonstrate to the class how to cut a variety of lines by changing the size of the blade and also by varying the distance and depth between each line. Caution students about carving too deeply. Safety-Kut® is easily carved and requires very little pressure to create detailed lines. You can always remove more material if desired after a test print is made.
6. Have students print multiple proofs throughout the carving process to give them an idea of the detail they have created.
7. Now comes the fun part. Each student now has a black-and-white proof of their design. Challenge students to use this print as a starting point for experimentation.

   Have students experiment by printing on:
   - Colored construction paper
   - Tissue papers — solids or prints
   - Newspaper
   - Black paper using white ink
   - Cardboard/tagboard

   Have students vary design elements by:
   - Repeating the image
   - Repeating and changing the direction of the print block while printing

8. After experimenting, have students write up a proposal for their final projects, including materials they are going to use and their goals for the final results.

Project extension: tree identification books



Standards

VA:Cr2.3.7a

Apply visual organizational strategies to design and produce a work of art, design, or media that clearly communicates information or ideas.

VA:Cr2.3.8a

Select, organize, and design images and words to make visually clear and compelling presentations.

Objectives

Students will...

- Create a book to house the data they gathered on various types of trees
- Enhance their ability to create a work that is consistent in visual design
- Learn to bind a book

Materials list

- Cuisinart® Velocity Ultra Blender (**WA33168**)
- Nasco Dry Pulp (**9705486**)
- Arnold Grummer's® Group Dip Handmold, Large, 8½" x 11" (**9723809**)
- Nasco Water-Soluble Block Printing Ink, 5-oz. Tube Set (**9728095**)
- Speedball® 4" Rubber Brayer
  Hard (**9734284**)
  Soft (**9701365**)
- Speedball® Lino Cutters Set (**9733406**)
- Nasco Construction Paper, 12" x 18", 50 sheets
  Assorted colors [**9727122(AB)**]
  White [**9727122(Z)**]
- Crayola® Classic Color Crayon Classpack®, 16 colors (**9729277**)
- Crayola® Ultra-Clean Washable® Marker Classpacks®, 8-Color Broad-Line Classpack® of 200 (**9728998**)
- Pacon® Super Heavyweight Tag Board, White, 9" x 12", pkg. of 100 (**9737901**)
- Peacock Natural Jute (**4500581**)
- Embroidery Floss Assortment (**9719844**)
- Three-Hole Punch
- Decorative Beads

Directions

Work with the science teacher at your school to develop a tree/leaf identification unit if there is not one currently being used. Have students come to art class prepared with folders containing the data required by the science teacher, including actual leaves, how to identify each tree using the leaves, and other characteristics of the trees themselves that would be helpful in identifying and distinguishing one from another.

Set up stations in the classroom for the following activities:

- Papermaking — Use a blender and water to make pulp, then have students spread the pulp on small wood frames stretched with a screen. (You can purchase ready-made screens from Nasco Education.)
- Leaf Prints — Have students ink the leaves they have collected, experimenting with brayers and printing inks in a variety of colors. Next, have students create their final prints using white paper.
- Leaf Rubbings — Have students place different types and weights of paper over leaves that have been laid vein-side-up, then use unwrapped crayons to create leaf rubbings on the paper.

In addition to the activities above, have students do contour drawings of their leaves, as well as write a poem about trees.

Book assembly

1. Have each student start with three sheets each of 12" x 18" white drawing paper, and have them fold their sheets in half and then place the folded sheets inside each other.
2. Using scraps of Nasco Safety-Kut®, have them carve a design using lino cutters.
3. Then, have them color the surface of the carved printing blocks using Crayola® markers, then print along the three edges of the folded sheets (do not print along the folded edges).
4. Next, have students glue data sheets into their books using glue sticks, being careful to center their sheets on each page.
5. Then, have them place pressed leaf samples from science class on the opposite page and cover with clear Con-Tact® paper.
6. Students should add a piece of 12" x 18" white construction paper around the other folded data sheets (this is to house their poems and other projects).
7. Using another piece of 12" x 18" paper (colored or white), have each student create a cover design on the right-hand side only (reinforce each side with tagboard for strength).
8. Then punch books with a three-hole punch and bind them by attaching a stick to the three holes using jute, yarn, or embroidery floss.
9. Have students make a fastener to keep the book closed by attaching a small, short stick to the front cover using jute, yarn, or embroidery floss and tying through two small holes punched near the opening edge of the cover. Attach another piece of jute, yarn, or embroidery floss through a hole punched near the opening edge of the back cover and attach decorative beads to the end. The book can be kept closed by taking the beaded string attached to the back cover and winding it around the small stick attached to the front cover.