

Covered Collagraph Printing-In the Rainforest

Grade Level: 4-6
Cross-Curricular-Art and Science

Description:

Students will be excited at each step in this project that results in a metallic relief "drawing" which is the covered and colored collagraph plate and collagraph prints that they have pulled from the plate. This lesson would adapt well to the study of any biome (biological community). Have the students choose some of the "residents" of the biome that have simple but interesting shapes and textures for their image.

Objectives:

- Students will choose from a variety of materials to create a collage image of a particular biome.
- Students will make effective use of shape, texture and color to give their work both variety and unity.
- Students will learn/review a variety of processes to create this project.

Materials:

- Gray Chipboard, 10-ply, 10-Sheet Pkg., 19" x 26" (456857-705)
- Scratch-Foam Board Printing Plates, Pkg. of 12, 9" x 12" (406541-705)
- Elmer's Glue, 7-5/8 Oz. (008991-705)
- Sax True Flow Tempera Varnish, Gloss, Quart (402269-705)
- Color Diffusing Paper, 12" x 18", 50-Sheet Pkg. (075219-705)
- Speedball Soft Rubber Brayer, 4" Wide (a foam roller may work better) (216495-705)
- Sax True Flow Water Soluble Block Printing Ink, Green, 8-Oz. Jar (461912-705)
- Styrofoam Paint, Printmaking, Collage Trays, Pkg. of 250 (467732-705)
- Sharpie Markers, Fine Tip, 24-Color Set (405908-705)
- Foohy Broadline Gel Markers, 8-Color Set (248940-705)
- Wikki Stix, Primary Colors, Pkg. of 48 (201236-705)

You Will Also Need:

- Aluminum foil food wrap
- String or twine
- Utility brush
- Scratch paper
- Pencil
- Spray bottle

You May Wish To Use:

- Sandpaper
- Corrugated cardboard with one surface peeled off
- Small items like:
 - Colored Rice, 1-Lb. Pkg. (387806-705)
 - Bucket O' Pebbles, 16-Oz., Rainbow Frost Mix (406829-705)
 - Scenic Sand, 8-Color Set (070529-705)
 - Indian Seed Beads, 1/2-Lb. Pkg. (245625-705)
- Other small or textured found objects

Directions:

1. Discuss the biome you are studying and what kind of plants and animals can be found there.
2. Cut chipboard and scratch paper to 8-1/2" x 13" pieces.
3. Draw a picture representing the biome. Keep the shapes large and simple. Repeat some similar shapes to enhance unity.
4. Cover the back of the drawing with graphite. Place the drawing on top of the cardboard and trace heavily over the lines to transfer the image to the cardboard.
5. Make a collage on the cardboard that represents the image in slight relief. Cut pieces of the Scratch-Foam to fit into some of the shapes and use a dull pencil to texture them. Try to create a variety of interesting textures from other materials, as these will enhance the prints you will make from this plate. Use a glued string line, a glued Wikki Stick line, or a heavy glue line to outline all shapes.
6. Let all glue in the collage dry and then brush the collage both front and back with Tempera Varnish. Let dry completely.
7. Roll ink out with a brayer on a Styrofoam tray until tacky.
8. Roll ink onto collage.
9. Dampen a piece of Color Diffusing Paper slightly.



10. Lay over collage, centering collage under paper.
11. Rub over the back of the paper with heel of your hand. Being careful not to tear the paper, try to pick up as much detail as possible by rubbing into small areas gently with fingers.
12. Pull the print off. Keep printing until you have several prints that you are satisfied with.
13. Tear off a piece of aluminum foil that is larger than the collagraph plate.
14. Lay the aluminum foil over the plate while the ink is still wet. Use a clean brayer to roll it down. Again, use your fingers to get into small areas, being careful not to tear the foil.
15. Wrap excess foil to back.
16. Color in foil-covered collage with Sharpie and/or Foohy markers. Leave the outlines silver to resemble the look of cloissone.

National Art Standards:

Content Standard #1: Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes.

Grade 5-8: Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques and processes to enhance communication of their experiences.

Content Standard #2: Using knowledge of structures and functions.

Grade 5-8: Students select and use the qualities of structures and functions of art to improve communication of their ideas.

Content Standard #3: Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas.

Grade 5-8: Students use subjects, themes and symbols that demonstrate knowledge of contexts, values and aesthetics that communicate intended meaning in artworks.