

# RELIEF PRINTING

## Art

Possible curricular outcomes, artwork dependent: English Language Arts & Literature, Science

### Look closely

Stop and quietly look at this artwork for at least one full minute.

- What do you notice?
- Use your view finder to help focus on any parts that make you curious.
- Take a moment to imagine you are inside the artwork. What can you hear and smell?

### Questions

- What are some action words you can use to describe this artwork?
- Make a list of the colours you notice, paying attention to the various shades and hues.
- When you look at the piece, how does your eye travel? What path do your eyes follow through the image?
- How would you describe this artwork to someone who has never seen it?

### Learn more

Printmaking is a process of artistic creation in which ink is transferred from one surface to another to make an impression. Through this method, multiples of the same image can be made. Different types of printmaking methods include linocut, lithography, woodcut, screen print, and intaglio.

Relief printing is where the printing surface is cut away so the image alone appears raised on the surface. Relief prints include woodcut, linoleum cut, letterpress, and rubber or metal stamping. The raised areas of the printing surface are inked and printed, while the areas that have been cut away do not pick up the ink.

### Activity

Materials: printing foam or Styrofoam plate, pencil, paper, paintbrush or roller, printing ink, scissors, and ink tray

1. Use a pencil to draw your image on printing foam. Be sure to press firmly to create deep grooves. This will eventually appear properly on your completed print.
2. Spread a small amount of printing ink on a tray. Using a roller or brush in the ink, transfer an even layer onto the foam. Be careful not to use too much ink so as not to fill in the grooves.
3. Place printing foam, ink-side-down, on a sheet of paper and press down firmly and evenly with your hand (or clean roller or a printmaking baren). Carefully lift the foam plate to avoid smudging your image. Set the print aside to dry.
4. Repeat steps 3 and 4 to print the image multiple times.

A great video showing how to make a relief print: [Foam Relief Printmaking Art Tutorial - Art With Trista](#) .

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## Share!

Share your print with a classmate and tell them about your design! You can email images of your prints to us at Glenbow: [schoolprograms@glenbow.org](mailto:schoolprograms@glenbow.org).

## Additional questions and thought starters

- What are some benefits and challenges of printmaking?
- What other materials can you use to make a printing plate?
- What messages or stories can be found in this artwork? Are there stories in your own artwork?