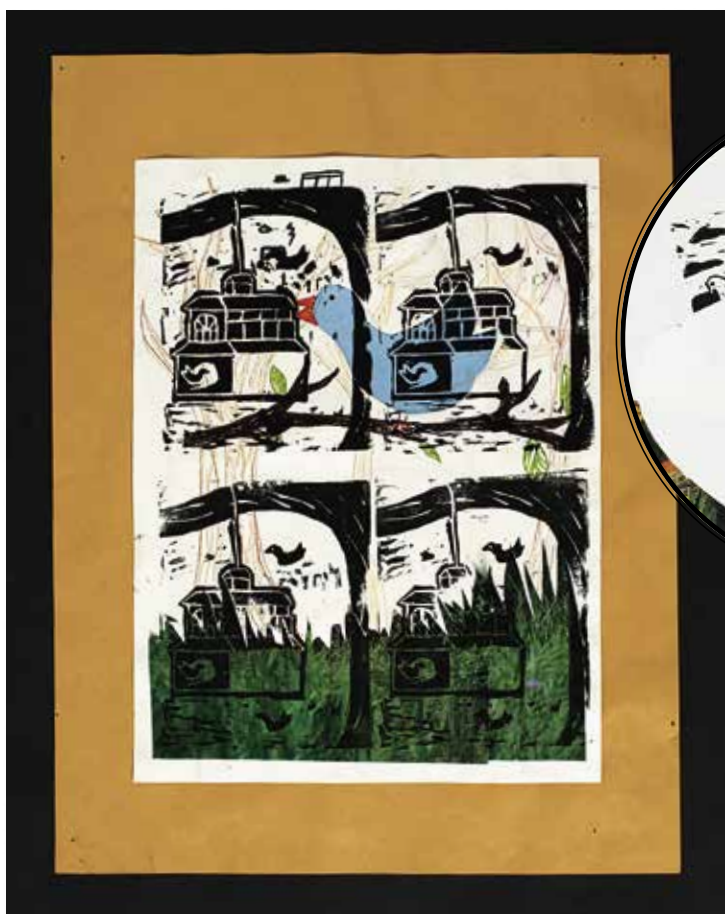


EXPERIMENTAL PRINTS

using Nasco Safety-Kut®

Developed with Wendy Goldsmith | Grades 6-8



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 • • • • •

- Nasco Hardcover Spiral Sketchbooks, 8½" x 11" — [9720396](#)
- Nasco Safety-Kut® Blocks:
 - 4" x 6" — [9704655](#)
 - 6" x 6" — [9731146](#)
- Speedball® Lino Cutters Set — [9733406](#)
- Nasco Country School™ Construction Paper, 9" x 12", 50 sheets
 - Assorted colours — [9727121AB](#)
 - Black — [9727121A](#)
- Spectra® Deluxe Bleeding Art Tissue™, assorted 10 colours, 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](#)
- Nasco Economy Brayers:
 - Hard rubber — [8200129](#)
 - Soft rubber — [8200130](#)



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 place the design face-down on the surface of the print block. Using your thumb, a spoon back, or a ruler, transfer the 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:

- Coloured 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 the final project, including materials they are going to use listing their goals for the final results.