



Instructions for Linocut Repeat Pattern

Lesson prep time	30 min	Lesson duration	2-3 lessons
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Learn how to make a linocut stamp inspired by nature and the local environment to create repeat patterns for paper and fabric.

SKILLS	EXPERIENCES & OUTCOMES	THEMES	AREA
Sculpture	Explore media ✓	Natural environment ✓	Design ✓
Drawing & Painting	Use visual elements ✓	Storytelling/fantasy/imagination	Expressive ✓
Printmaking ✓	Observe & record ✓	Culture/history ✓	
Craft	Respond to stimuli	Figure	
Digital/Photography	Solve design problems	Face & expression	
Textiles ✓	Share & display Analyze & discuss ✓		

Learning Intentions & Success Criteria

Age group	We are learning:	We can:
early	n/a	n/a
first	n/a	n/a
second	to make a repeating pattern using a handmade lino stamp.	carve lines in lino to make a stamp for a repeating pattern

Materials:

- Images of local environments/plants/animals eg: machair flowers, shells, birds
- Pre-prepared lino blocks no larger than 10 x 10cm (these can be left as squares or cut into a scallop shape for a more interesting pattern design)
- Lino-cutting tools and hand guards
- Permanent marker pens
- Materials or paper to print on
- Printing inks
- Ink/rollers and trays for inking

Introduction and input:

We will be drawing on our natural island habitats and environments for inspiration for our designs and learning how to make a repeating pattern.

Linocut works by carving away the areas that are going to be left blank so that the raised areas left collect the ink. Remind children that the design will print in mirror image.

Explain that for a repeat pattern to work, the design will need to be repeated at precise intervals.

Useful vocabulary:

carving: cutting away lino using tools

Main Activity:

1. Give pupils some time to sketch elements from your chosen photographs. Keep the designs simple, as lino carving is tricky.
2. When pupils are happy with their designs they can transfer this to their lino block. This can be done with tracing paper or drawn straight on to the lino using a permanent marker.
3. Carefully carve away the areas that will be white using the lino cutting tools. ALWAYS carve away from yourself and make sure to use the safety hand guards – lino tools are sharp!

4. When the lino block is ready, sweep away any carved pieces of lino and make sure there is plenty of space for inking. A little lino ink should be squeezed on to the top of the inking tray and using the roller 'pull' a little of the ink in a downwards motion to create a patch of ink. Roll the roller over this patch until a thin, smooth area of ink has been made and the roller is evenly coated.



5. Apply the ink to the lino by rolling the roller several times over the design, going back for more ink if necessary. It helps to place the lino on a sheet of paper to avoid mess.

6. Use the block like a stamp to create a repeating pattern on the material or paper. Different colours can also be applied if desired by cleaning the lino block in between inkings.



Plenary:

Second:

Discuss artists such as William Morris who used this method to create woodblock wallpaper and fabric patterns.

Why is the design a mirror image when printed?

Why do the carved areas not print?

What methods are you using to make sure your pattern is evenly spaced?

Further Activity Suggestions:

SECOND:

Linocut safety:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUBh813V3WM&ab_channel=ATeacher

Pattern:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zc3897h>

William Morris:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=quhnejd-h14>

Clean up tips & suggestions:

- If linocut ink is water based it can be cleaned up with soap and water. If you use an oil based ink, use vegetable or baby oil to clean your tools and printing plate.