

An Exhibition in the Classroom - Explore the Site with Your Students

INUIT PRINTS

FROM CAPE DORSET



Pedagogical Intent

Students learn about the art of Cape Dorset in Nunavut by viewing video that profiles the community and its artists. They develop a working understanding of the block printing process viewing instructional video, seeing the process modelled and creating their own block prints.

Subjects

The Arts, Language, Aboriginal Studies, Geography, History

Themes

Canadian and Aboriginal art, printmaking, Aboriginal culture, diversity

Skills and Competencies

Demonstrate creativity, cooperate with others, listen to others, observe, interpret, discuss, describe, compare, use digital media as a learning tool, use oral communication, apply and transfer knowledge and skills, gather information, organize a project

Duration

60-120 minutes

Grades 1 to 8

Create Your Own Prints!

Web Resources

[Cape Dorset Video](#) An excellent introduction to the community, to print making and sculpture

[Renowned Printmaker at Work](#) Printmaker Pitseolak Niviaqsi at work in Cape Dorset

[Kenojuak Ashevak](#) an introduction to a renowned Cape Dorset artist

[How to make Linoleum Block Prints](#) instructional video

[How to Make Linoleum Block Prints 2](#) instructional video

[How to Make Linoleum Block Prints 3](#) instructional video

[Printmaking Basic Techniques](#) instructional video

[Cape Dorset Prints 2010](#) The 2010 collection





[Cape Dorset Selected Prints 1999-2008](#) A selection of prints from 1999 to 2008 and some prints from the 2009 collection

[Dorset Fine Arts](#) The site of the marketing division of the West Baffin Eskimo Cooperative
An excellent site to view prints

Equipment

Internet enabled computer, projection screen

Teacher Preparation

This works as a small group or individual project. Prepare a partially finished print beforehand, in order to demonstrate the technique in a timely manner. Note that students should be encouraged to create more than one print, so that they can master the technique.

Materials List

Paper for the original drawing, thicker paper for the relief block, glue or tape, paint, scissors, and paper for the final print.



Procedure

1. View Video

Begin with a full-class viewing of the Cape Dorset Video, one of the print websites and/or the other videos. Talk about Cape Dorset, and locate it on a map. Ensure that students have seen a reasonable sampling of Cape Dorset prints. Talk about the print making process, and if they were to make a print, the subject matter they'd pick and what materials they would use.

2. Demonstrate the Technique

Using your partially finished print, demonstrate how the process works and suggest that they keep the image simple to ensure good results.

3. Draw it

Students create a simple pencil drawing on tracing paper that can easily be cut out with scissors.

4. Transfer it

Students place the tracing paper face down on the thicker paper, and transfer the image to the thick paper by tracing it on the back side.

5. Cut it out, Stick it on

Students cut out their transferred image with scissors and glue or tape it to another piece of thick paper.

6. Apply the Paint

Students carefully apply a very thin layer of paint to the raised cut out image with a roller (preferred), brush or other application tool. Note: If you get paint anywhere other than the raised image, wipe it off or cover it before the next step.

7. No Smudging

Students gently lay the print sheet on the paint-covered raised paper, and press down to ensure the paint is fully transferred using a roller, by hand, and/or with the rounded side of a spoon.

8. Reveal the Masterpiece

Students carefully peel off the paper and check out the finished print! Allow it to dry before handling.

9. Variation

Do it again, this time with different coloured or textured paper, different coloured paint, or other variations.



Extension Activities

Make a Print, Cape Dorset Style

Students create a print that is similar to a Cape Dorset print, in theme or content. Show the students a range of prints (<http://www.civilization.ca/capedorsetprints>), and have them choose which print or theme they'd like to do.

Film Your Classmates As They Create Their Own Prints

Have students film the printmaking process in class, documenting each step. Share the resulting video within the school or upload it to YouTube or other sites. (Note: obtain parental permission for children to appear in the video and for the finished product to be disseminated)

Use Other Materials to Make a Print

Challenge students to create prints using other materials such as cardboard for the block, food colouring as ink, etc. Compare results.