



The Primary
Shakespeare
Company

CREATIVE PRINTMAKING

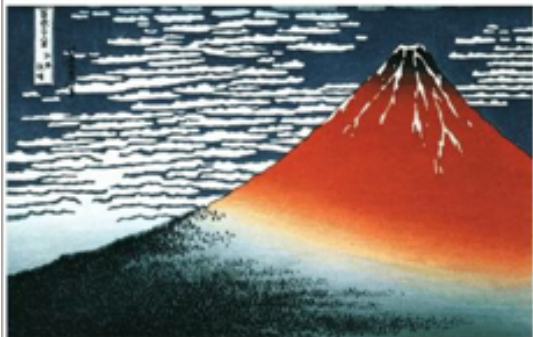
inspired by CELTIC ART AND
DESIGN

Making Relief Printing Blocks

The prints can be made onto paper or fabric, meaning that this technique is useful not only for creating stand-alone artworks but could also be used in creating costumes, set and props.

Art History and Context

If your children have never done any printmaking before, it might be useful to look briefly at the history and process of printmaking. Well-known artists who have used printmaking in their work include Picasso, Matisse, Hokusai, and Durer, and there are many different forms of printmaking; linocutting, woodcutting, engraving, etching, and screenprinting, to name just a few. The technique used in the first of these child-friendly projects is most similar to woodcutting.



Images (Clockwise from top left): Picasso, Matisse, Hokusai

PROJECT: Making a String Relief Block

This printing block design is particularly effective for creating a small image you could use as a stand alone piece of art, a book cover or to customise a t-shirt. Think about creating images that represent the sea voyage and storm at the beginning of *The Tempest*; a crest of a crashing wave, a flash of lightning, a storm cloud, a star to represent magic.

RESOURCES

- Strips of firm card
- Pencils
- String
- PVA glue and brushes
- Block printing inks (if you don't have at home you can still make a print using other thick paint-just not watercolours!)
- Rollers (if you don't have a roller you could try adapting and use a rolling pin/bottle or similar)

Part 1 – Designing and Making the Plate

Children should design a *Tempest*-inspired pattern for the print. When they are ready, they should draw this lightly in pencil onto their piece of card to use as a guide.



Next, coat the card **GENEROUSLY** with PVA glue – it can be done in sections if this is easier.

Using a long piece of string, gently guide the string to follow the pattern, cutting and joining where necessary.

Children may add other textures to their printing block – such as thick card cut into shapes – but for it to register on their prints, it must be a similar relief to the string.

Everything must be firmly glued down. Leave to dry overnight.