



ART PROJECTS AT HOME

# Relief Prints

## Description:

Students will work in styrofoam and ink to reproduce an image of their choice. Styrofoam is a versatile art tool that can be upcycled from to-go boxes and other food packaging containers!

## Master Artists /

### Art Historical References:

Kathe Kollwitz

**Discipline:** Printmaking

**Age Levels:** 10 - 14 years old

## Needed Materials:

- Styrofoam blocks
- Markers
- Carving tools (pencils, toothpicks, etc.)
- Paper (small paper for proofs/ individual prints, large paper for final collaboration)
- Ink or acrylic paint
- Brayers or paint brushes

## Attributions:

Virtual Learning Project Developer: Augustine Smith

Curriculum Developer: Tamah Minnis

## Essential Terms:

- Relief: Any material, usually wax or grease crayons, that repel paint or dyes
- Brayer: a small roller for inking type by hand, usually for making a proof
- Print: a work of graphic art which has been conceived by the artist to be realised as an original work of art, rather than a copy of a work in another medium
- Proof: an impression of a print taken in the printmaking process to see the current printing state of a plate while the plate (or stone, or woodblock) is being worked on by the artist

## Primary Goals and Related National Standards:

- Students will understand and feel comfortable using printing vocabulary like “relief” and “proof”.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic printmaking practices and appropriate behavior for a shared studio space.
- Students will work with recycled materials to create a completed artwork.
- Students will be able to create a horizon line in their artwork.



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## Procedure:

1. Cut out a clean styrofoam piece from a to-go box or similar packaging material.
2. Trace this shape onto a piece of sketch paper.
3. Draw your composition in the outlined space. Once you have completed your sketch, trace over it with a sharpie or similar dark marker.
4. Flip over this sketch paper and align the styrofoam block with the traced area.
5. Using a pencil, trace the image that has bled through the paper, using enough force to make an impression in the styrofoam. This process reflects your image so that it will print in the right direction.
6. Use this impression to guide your carving. Any area that you would like to be negative space (the white of the paper) should be completely carved with a tockpick or depressed with a pencil to ensure it does not show up.
7. Use a Brayer or Roller to cover the surface of the styrofoam with paint. If you don't have a brayer, a paintbrush will work just fine!
8. Press your styrofoam block into your paper.
9. Remove the block from the paper to reveal your final print!