

Artists for Kids Collagraph Kit: Lego Press

Grades K-7

Created in collaboration with artist Reed H. Reed



Activity:

Students will create original relief designs by placing small flat lego pieces onto lego baseplates. They will then print their lego print blocks, using hand printing techniques and/or a hand printing press.

What is Collagraphy?

Collagraphy is a printmaking process in which materials are glued or sealed to a rigid surface to create a plate. Once inked, the plate becomes a tool for imprinting the design onto paper or another medium. The resulting print is termed a collagraph. The

lego print blocks stretch the traditional definition of a collagraph plate – but similarly, they provide a means for students to create a unique design in relief, that can be imprinted onto paper.

Students will learn the following skills:

- assembling shapes and lines using lego pieces to create a relief print block
- using hand printing techniques or a hand printing press to reproduce prints on paper
- planning and design processes and principles of design

Materials Provided in Collagraph Printmaking Kit:

- small lego flat pieces and lego baseplates
- 6 brayers of various width
- 4 inking plexi plates
- 2 palette knives
- 4 paint scrapers (2 plastic, 2 metal)
- 2 hand presses with felt and acrylic printing blankets
- Soap, 2 sponges, and 2 squirt bottles
- Laminated lesson plan
- 4 Baren

Materials Provided by Teacher/School:

- Paper towels
- Optional: aprons

Ink (available from Opus):

- Akua Intaglio Ink – 8 oz: \$29.24- ____ with Educator's Discount **(Note: The colours such as Prussian Blue and Oxide Green are more liquid than the black Akua ink. Both work for this project, but you will need to experiment with rolling out different amounts of ink, depending on its consistency)**

Paper Options (available from school or Staples):

- 8.5"x11" white card stock (1 or more per student)
- 8.5"x11" white printer paper (1 or more per student)
- 9"x12" construction paper, cut in half (1 or more per student)
- 12"x18" fadeless paper in assorted colours, cut into smaller pieces (1 or more per student)
- Newsprint cut into small pieces (1 or more per student)

North Vancouver Opus Store : 604-904-0447

Inquiry Questions:

- What makes a design interesting and balanced?
- How might we create individual designs that can be connected to create a cohesive collaborative design?
- How can uniform geometric components be combined to create unique and attention-grabbing patterns and designs?

Big Ideas:

- Artists experiment in a variety of ways to discover new possibilities and perspectives **(Arts Education)**
- Designs can be improved with prototyping and testing **(ADST)**
- Skills can be developed through play **(ADST)**

First Peoples Principles of Learning

- Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place).

Curricular Competencies: What students will DO

Students will be able to use the following creative process(es):

- Create a relief print using ideas inspired by imagination, inquiry, experimentation, and purposeful design **(Arts Education)**
- Develop and refine technical skills required to create a collagraph printing block and reproduce a print through the printmaking process **(Arts Education)**

Concepts and Content: What students will KNOW

Students will know the following concepts and content:

- Elements and principles of art and design including shape, line, texture, form, balance, repetition, emphasis, and variety (**Arts Education**)
- Processes, materials, and techniques needed to create a collagraph print (**Arts Education**)

Core Competencies (suggested questions for reflection)

- **COMMUNICATION:** What shapes, textures, and repetitions did you use in your collagraph print?
- **THINKING:** How did play and experimentation influence your design?
- **PERSONAL AND SOCIAL:** What differences and similarities did you observe between the collagraph prints that you and your classmates created?

Suggested Descriptive Feedback

- Nora has designed a collagraph print considering the elements of line, space, balance, repetition, and variety.
- Nora has refined technical skills required to create a collagraph print, including creating a relief plate using lego, inking, and using a hand printing press.
- Nora demonstrates personal responsibility when creating art, contributing to a safe learning environment. Nora actively contributes to cleaning up art materials and work space.

Displaying Student Artwork

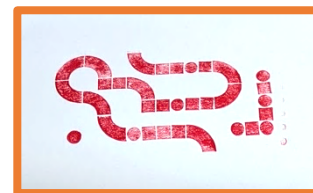
The following are tips for displaying the finished collagraphs at your school:

- Have students work together to arrange their finished artworks, creating a collaborative class composition.
- Include a title and description with the display of finished artwork. For example:

Lego Press Collagraph Prints by Div.2
Created with the Artists for Kids Collagraph Print Kit

We learned about techniques to make collagraph prints using lego!

Inquiry Question:
What makes a design interesting and balanced?



Suggested Summative Assessment Rubric for Collagraphs

Teachers are invited to adapt and edit the following evaluation rubric:

	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
Composition: Student has thoughtfully planned and considered the composition of their lego print block, thinking about positive and negative space, using the elements of line, space, balance, repetition, unity, and variety.				
Material, Technique, and Tool Exploration: Student has followed teacher directed processes in creating a lego print block and print using hand printing techniques and/or a hand press. Student's artmaking techniques demonstrate care, craftsmanship, and purposeful play.				
Studio Habits "Work Habits": Student demonstrates personal and collective responsibility when creating art, contributing to a safe learning environment. Student actively contributes to cleaning up art materials and work space.				

Step-by-Step Collagraph Lesson Guide

VIEW AND DISCUSS EXAMPLES OF COLLAGRAPH PRINTS MADE WITH LEGO PROVIDED IN KIT:

- What makes a design interesting and balanced?
- How might we create individual designs that can be connected to create a cohesive collaborative design?
- How can uniform geometric components be combined to create unique and attention-grabbing patterns and designs?

INTRO PROJECT:

- Students will create a collagraph plate by placing small flat lego pieces onto lego baseplates.
- **Optional:** Give students the challenge to make their design connect to their classmates' designs. For example, you could specify that each students' design must begin and end at the bottom left and bottom right corners of their baseplate.
- **Optional:** Share examples of protest posters with students and discuss ways that artists and designers use simplified text and designs to communicate a perspective or idea. Students could be tasked with designing a poster using the lego press materials to communicate a perspective or idea of their choosing, or relating to grade level curriculum.

CREATING LEGO PRINT BLOCKS:

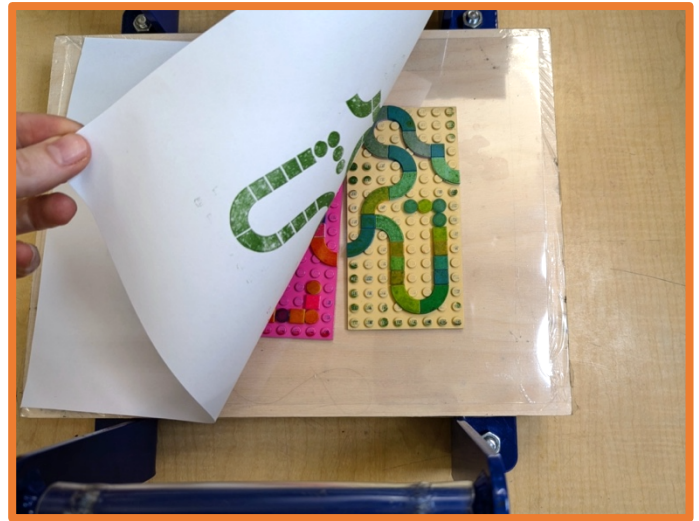
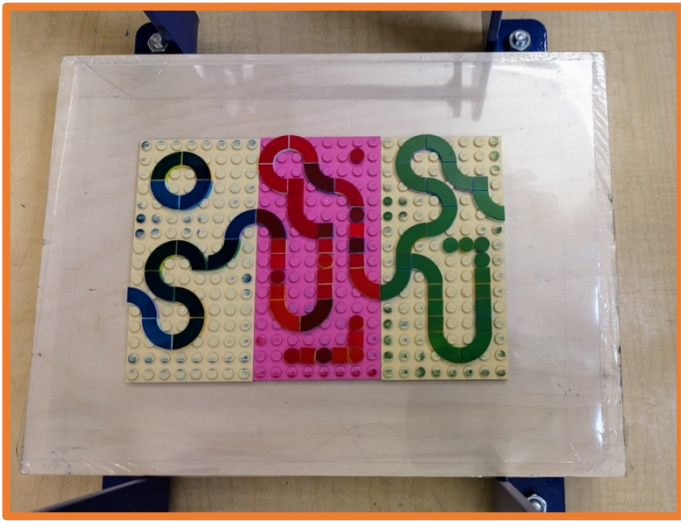
- Distribute to each student a lego baseplate. Students can then create designs on the baseplate using the small flat lego pieces.
- Emphasize to students that if they include words, letters, or numbers they should design them **in reverse** on their baseplate.



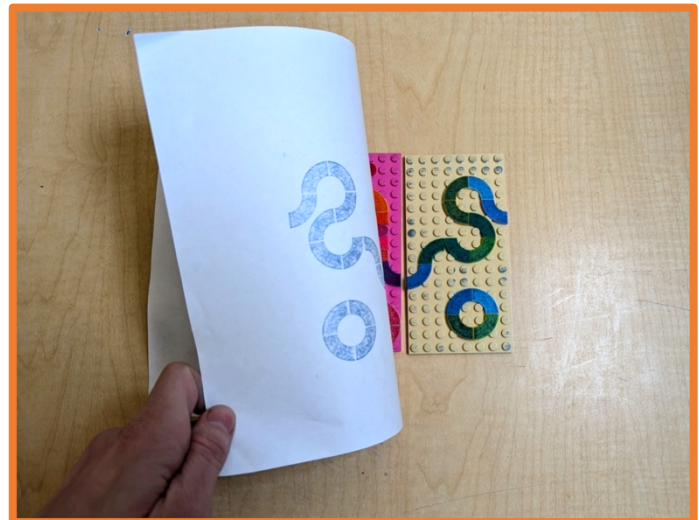
PRINTING LEGO PRINT BLOCKS:

- Use palette knife (provided) to apply ink to inking plate (approximately 1 tsp of ink at a time).
- Use brayer to spread ink evenly over the inking plate, concentrate the ink in the middle of the plate.
- Roll ink onto the lego print block. Apply ink in a north-south and diagonal direction to evenly ink the block.

- **Optional:** Provide multiple colours of ink for students to use.
- **Optional:** Use a paper towel to wipe excess ink off of the sections of the base plate that are not part of the design created using the flat lego pieces.



- **If printing using the hand printing press:** Place the inked lego print block, inked side up, on the lower bed of the press.
- Place a piece of "good copy" paper on top of the inked lego print block. Place an additional piece of paper on top of the "good copy" paper (could be printer paper, newsprint, or a piece of paper towel).
- Next place the blue acrylic blanket and then the white felt.
- Close the hand press and press strongly down on the handle.
- Make sure there is no ink on your fingers when you pull the finished print!



- **If hand printing using a baren:** Place the inked lego print block, inked side up, on a piece of scrap paper (i.e. newsprint or paper towel).
- Place a piece of "good copy" paper on top of the inked lego print block.
- Optionally work with a partner and have them hold the "good copy" paper down at the edges. Rub the soft side of the baren over the inked lego print block, making sure to cover all surface area. Apply medium pressure. Once finished, slowly lift up the "good copy" paper to reveal your finished print.

- Alternatively, place an additional piece of paper on top of the "good copy" paper (could be printer paper, newsprint, or a piece of paper towel). Then place the blue acrylic blanket from the hand printing press on top. Hold this in place with one hand and rub the soft side of the baren over the inked lego print block, making sure to cover all surface area. Apply medium pressure. Once finished, remove the blue acrylic blanket, the extra piece of paper, and then slowly lift up the "good copy" paper to reveal your finished print.

CLEANING UP:

- ***Please note that for clean-up the Akua ink is water soluble when you use both SOAP and water***
- Thoroughly wash the ink from the lego print blocks, inking plates, palette knives, and brayers using soap and water.
- The flat lego pieces can be removed from the lego baseplates using the paint scrapers provided.

