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## Introduction to Multicolor Printing

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## Intro to Multicolor Jigsaw Printing

**Lesson Objective:** Students will utilize their newfound skills in relief printmaking to make a multicolor print. They will be practicing the process of Jigsaw printing, a process in which the plate is cut into multiple pieces with a designated color per piece. By the end of the lesson the students will be able to make multiple editions of multicolor prints through Jigsaw printing. "Introduction to Multicolor Printing" Powerpoint goes along with this lesson.

### **Standards:**

2.6 Create an original work of art emphasizing rhythm and movement, using a selected printing process.

### **Materials:**

Styrofoam sheets

Dull pencils or tortillions for carving

Scissors or Xacto knives for cutting plates

Pencils for sketching

Scratch paper for sketching

Cardstock for printing

Tempera paint or Water based ink

Brayers

Optional Materials:

Paint brushes for touch ups

Hand-held mirror (for the teacher to show the students their reversed images)

### **1. Relief Multicolor Prints**

- a. Reduction Printing (The plate is carved away bit by bit for every color)
- b. Traditional block printing (A different block for every color)
- c. Jigsaw Printing (The plate is cut into several different sections, one for every color. One of the simplest and quickest methods to achieve multicolor prints.)

### **2. Relief Multicolor Prints by the Masters...**

- a. Hokusai (The image shown is of Mt. Fuji and is done through traditional woodblock printing.)
- b. Elizabeth Catlett

### **3. Jigsaw Printing**

- a. Named as such because it is similar to how a jigsaw puzzle works
- b. The plate is cut into several different pieces, a different color per piece
- c. The plate is reassembled once inked and used to print a full multicolor image

### **4. Jigsaw Print Examples**

- a. The fish print
  - i. There are five separate pieces of the plate and three colors of ink (Black, Blue, Light Blue) The red and yellow are the colors of the paper.
- 5. Thinking about your image**
  - a. Discuss possible print ideas with the students, what subject matter interests them and what do they think would make a good multicolor print? Revert back to the slide with print examples to help them become inspired.
  - b. Tell the students to aim for at least 2 different colors, but to not exceed 4, as it can get more complicated and messy for beginners.
    - i. Remind your students to print in reverse!
- 6. Cutting your plate**
  - a. Once everyone has their image check and make sure that it won't be too complicated or difficult to cut with safety scissors.
  - b. The students can carve the detail portion of their image either before or after they cut their plate into multiple pieces.
- 7. Inking your plate**
  - a. Same as the relief process but the students are inking each individual piece a different color as opposed to the entire plate at once.
  - b. Once all the pieces are all inked the students will reassemble the plate like a puzzle and press their paper onto the plate.
  - c. Peel the paper off and observe your first print!
- 8. Refining your Prints**
  - a. Observe the student's work and note the ink consistency/coloring/placement of the pieces.
    - i. Help them through the inking and printing process several times to refine their prints.
  - b. By the end of the project each student should have 5 prints they are satisfied with.
- 9. Lesson Reflection**
  - a. Lead a small critique among the students
    - i. Did you enjoy this process? What did you like/dislike about it?
    - ii. How was this process different than the single color process?