

Objects

To help deliver activities and experiences associated with woodblock printing, we have provided with you a variety of additional tools which you can use to engage audiences in the woodblock printing process. These objects are highlighted below.



Item	Description
1	DVD - Techniques of Ukiyo-e – provided by Adachi Institute of Woodcut Prints, with English subtitles.
2	Baren – A baren is a hand tool with a flat base and handle. It is used to apply equal pressure to the back of a sheet of paper to lift ink from a block.
3	Wooden block – This block is made from lemonwood. Cherrywood was a popular choice in traditional Japanese woodblock printing.
4	Brush - These brushes are used to mix ink and paste together and spread it evenly across the wood block. Rollers could also be used.
5	Washi paper – This is a form of hand-made traditional Japanese paper, produced using mulberry fibres. The practice of producing the paper is recognised as an intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO.

Practical Craft Activities

1 – Creating monochrome and polychrome prints using etched wood sheets

As part of the Ancient Egypt and East Asia National Programme, we have created a group set of etched wooden sheets which can be used to introduce audiences to monochrome and polychrome printing processes. In the interest of audience safety, we have not provided the tools and resources to allow for carving your own designs into wood directly, rather, we have suggested an alternative activity which will allow pupils and families to create their own designs.

We have provided wooden sheets with five different Japanese motifs for use in producing monochrome printing with audiences to give them a practical sense of the latter stages of the printing process; which would take place following from the carving of designs into a block(s). We have provided the same designs in a range of wooden sheets to allow for the production of polychrome designs as well.

The motifs include:

- Japanese cherry blossom
- An origami crane
- Cranes in flight
- A torii (a traditional Japanese gate at Shinto shrines)
- A temple and mountains

To Produce a Monochrome Print:

- 1 Select your design from the five available etched blocks



- 2 Select your desired colour of ink and place in a paint tray.
Apply your chosen colour carefully to the relief of the block using a roller.



- 3 Align an A5 piece of card with the perimeter of the inked block.



- 4 Apply equally distributed pressure to the paper using a baren.



5 Carefully remove the paper from the inked wooden block to provide your monochrome print.



To Produce a Polychrome Print:

1. Select your design from the five available, and familiarise yourself with how each block will fit together to produce the overall printed image.



2. Select your desired colour of ink for the initial block and place in a paint tray. Apply your chosen colour carefully to the relief of the block using a roller.



3 Align an A5 piece of card with the perimeter of the inked block.



4 Apply equally distributed pressure to the paper using a baren.



5 Carefully remove the paper from the inked wooden block to provide your first colour of your print.



6. Repeat steps 2 to 5 for each additional colour on each additional block until you have applied all the colours to your paper. Take care to align your inked paper with the perimeter of each wooden block when adding each additional colour.



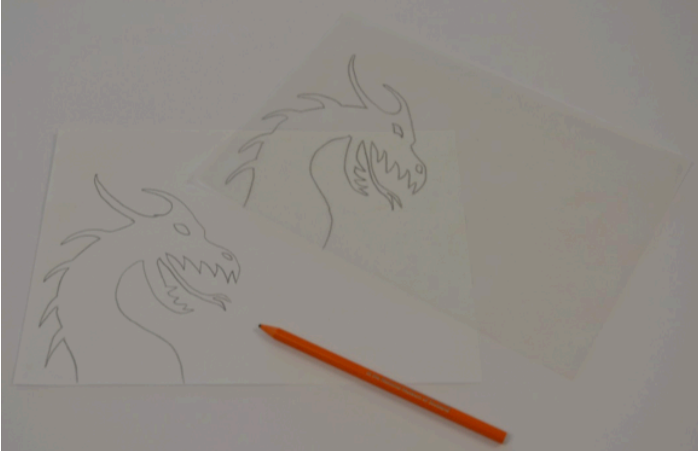


2 – Creating monochrome and polychrome prints through making your own print design

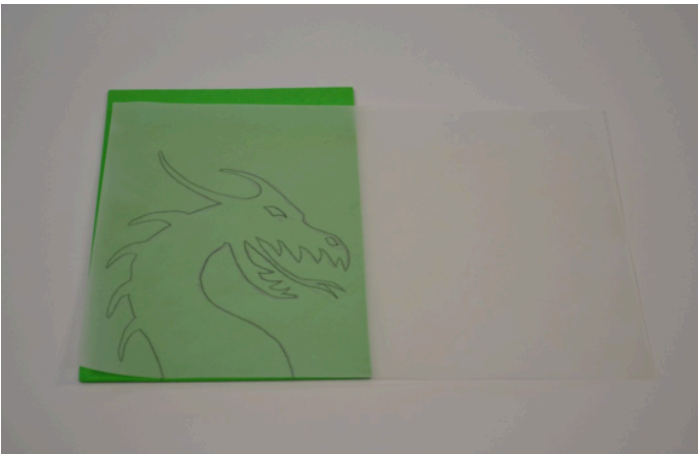
As a substitute for carving designs into wooden block using sharp tools, we have provided a suggested alternative activity to convey a sense of the design process for creating a woodblock.

To Produce a Monochrome Print:

1. Get participants to sketch a simple design onto A4/A5 paper, or directly onto A4/A5 tracing paper.



2. Take your tracing paper and place it reverse side down on-top of a sheet of A4/A5 craft foam. Make sure your tracing paper design is aligned with the boundaries of the foam sheet.



3. Using a blunt pencil, trace over your design outline firmly to leave an imprint of your design on the foam sheet. Once you have done this, remove the tracing paper.



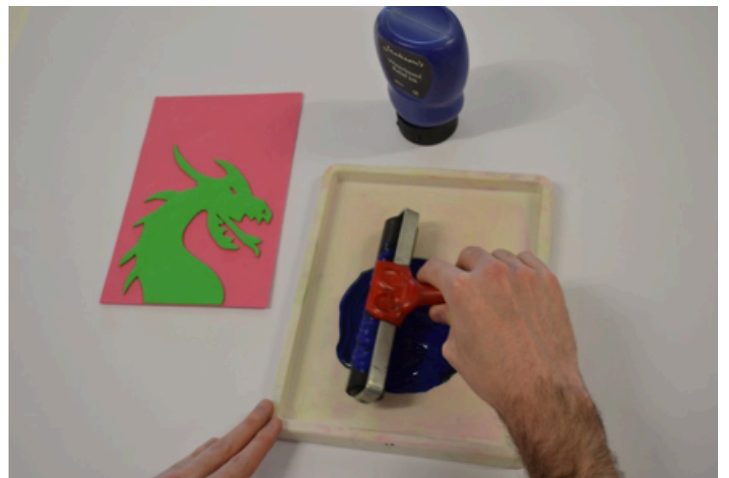
4. Use scissors to cut out your foam design. Cut out areas that you do not want to apply ink to during the printing process.

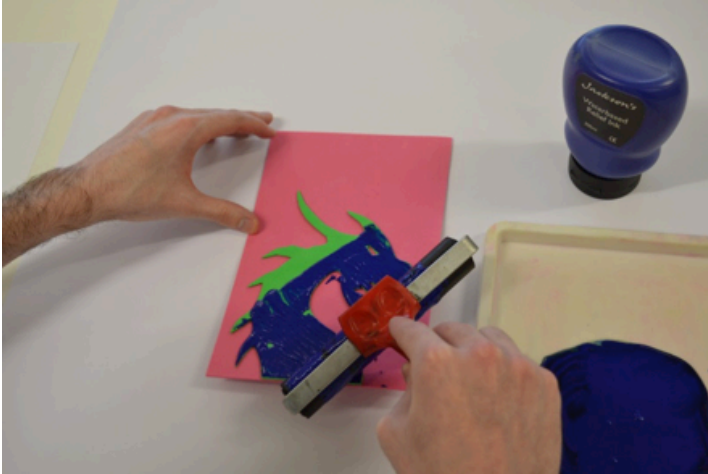


5. Stick your foam design onto a new sheet of A4/A5 foam.

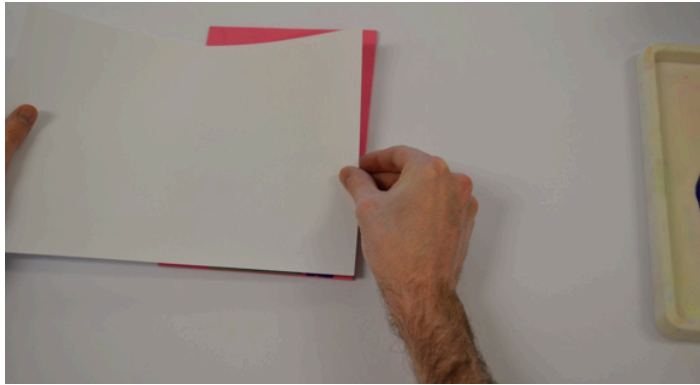


6. Apply your desired colour of ink to your monochrome block, or the first colour to your first polychrome block.

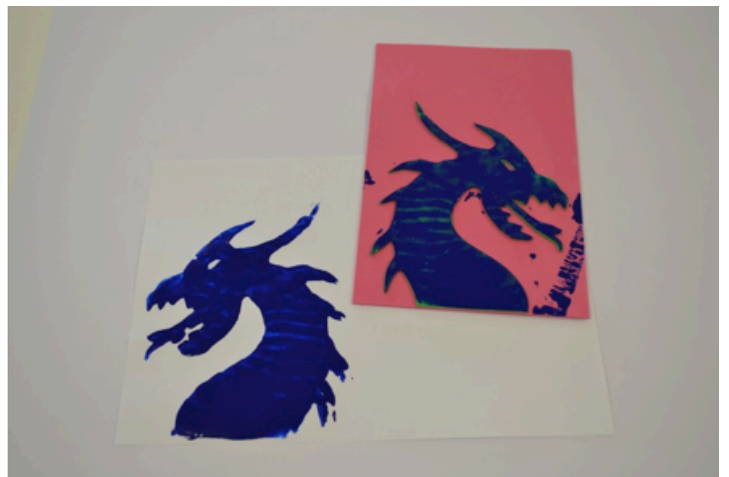




7. Align a sheet of A4/A5 card with the perimeter of your inked design.



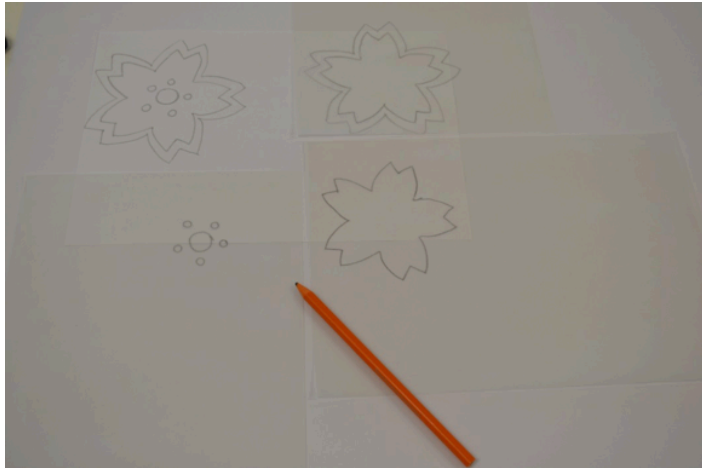
8. Apply pressure to your paper using a baren to make your imprint. Carefully remove your inked paper to reveal your design.



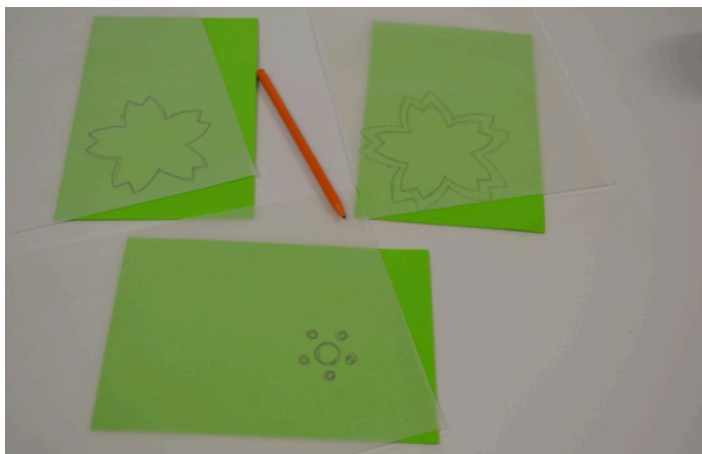
If you're developing a polychrome design, you can now repeat stages 3-5, using a separate piece of foam for each colour you would like to include in your final print. In each case, you should cut away the foam that you do not want to ink in the colour you're developing the block for. Make sure your tracing paper is aligned with the foam sheet in the same way as you did with your original transfer. Stick each foam design onto a new sheet of A4/A5 card. This will represent your additional carved blocks for different colours in your final woodblock print.

To Produce a Polychrome Print:

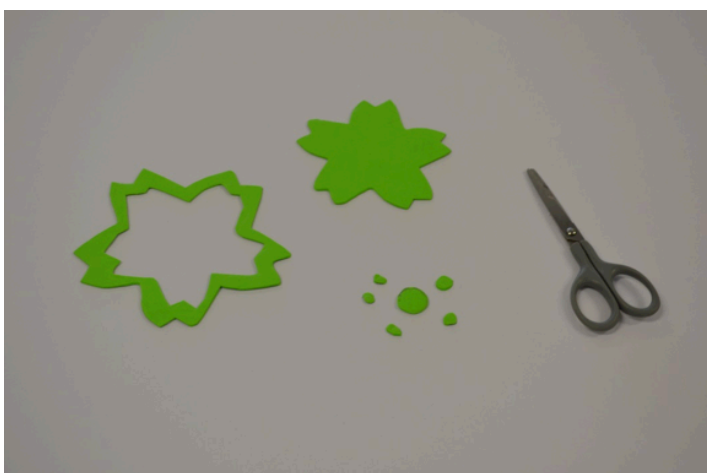
1. Get participants to sketch a simple, complete design onto A4/A5 paper. They should then reproduce each element of the design (where an element is a separate colour to be included in the final print) on separate sheets of tracing paper. Using the initial paper sketch design can help align each piece of tracing paper (you should be able to place each sheet of tracing paper on top of each other and see your whole image).



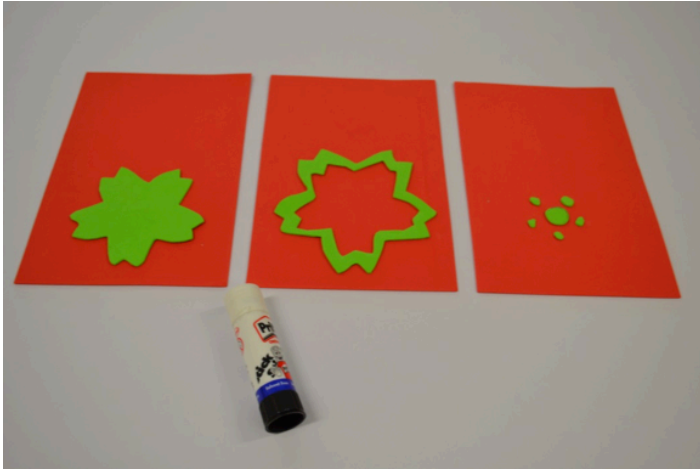
2. Take each sheet of tracing paper and place it reverse side down on-top of a sheet of A4/A5 craft foam. Make sure your tracing paper design is aligned with the boundaries of the foam sheet in the same way for each element.



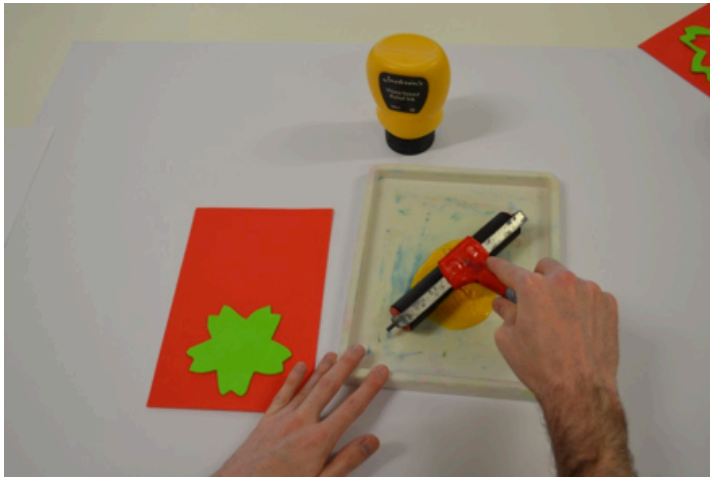
3. Using a blunt pencil, trace over each element of your design outline firmly to leave an imprint of your design on each foam sheet. Once you have done this, remove the tracing paper and cut out each element separately.



4. Stick each element of your design onto a new sheet of foam.
Make sure you align each element of your design in the same position as in your original tracing paper outlines.



Apply your first colour of ink to your block of choice.



6. Align a sheet of A4/A5 card with the perimeter of your inked design.

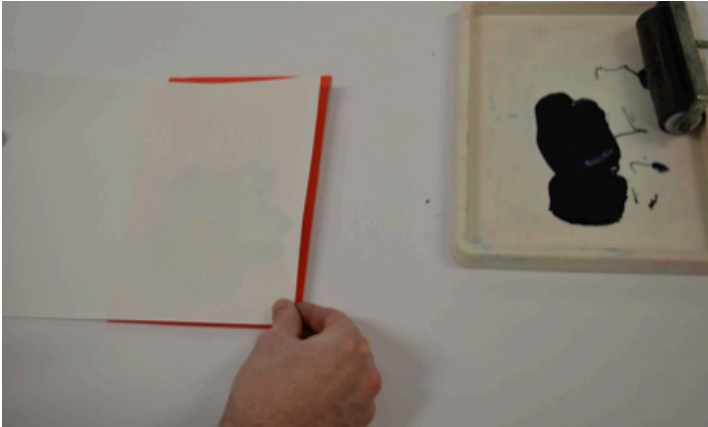
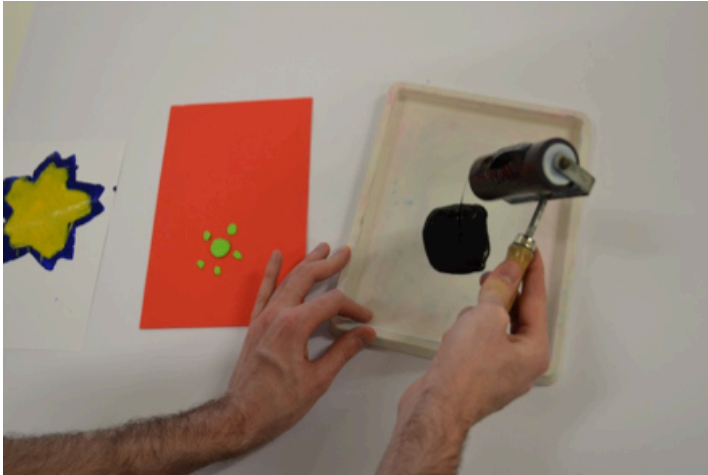
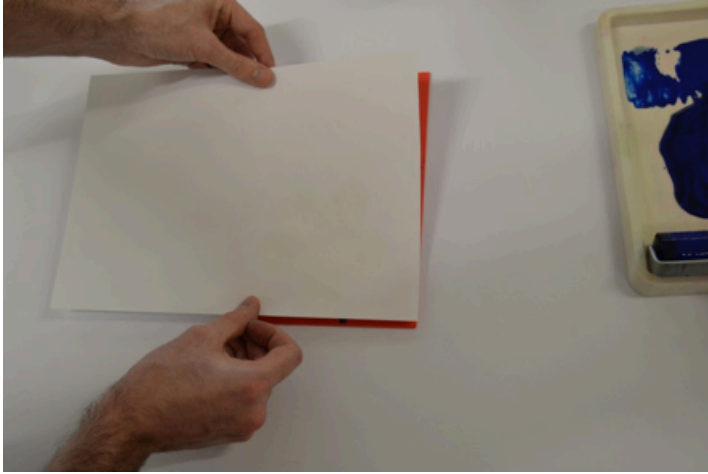


7. Apply pressure to your paper using a baren to make your imprint. Carefully remove your inked paper to reveal your design.



8. Repeat steps 5-7 with each subsequent foam block you have prepared with each additional colour you would like to include in your design. Take care to align your inked paper with the perimeter of each foam sheet when adding each additional colour.





9. Once you have applied all the colours you wish, congratulations!
You have produced your very own print(s) inspired by the Japanese Woodblock Printing process.



