



GRADES: 1-3

MULTI-LAYER GEL PRINTING

“Images and Ghosts: The Life Cycle of a Butterfly”

SUPPLIES

- Speedball Gel Printing Plates Bulk Pack, (10) 8"x10" Gel Printing Plates
- Speedball Soft Rubber Brayer, 4"
- Akua Intaglio® Inks (Hansa Yellow, Quinacridone Magenta, Phthalo Blue)
- Speedball Baren
- Bienfang® Newsprint
- Assorted papers (Recommend Bienfang Bristol Drawing Paper, 9"x12")
- Wooden stir sticks for distributing Akua® Inks
- Wallpaper scraps
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Baby wipes or paper towels and soapy water for cleanup

LESSON

After exploring the life cycle of the butterfly 1st to 3rd grade students will document the process by creating a gel monotype print and ghost print using shapes cut from textured papers. Students will understand how primary colors can mix to create the full spectrum of color using the printmaking process to create a 3 color layered print and ghost.

Students will understand craftsmanship and respect for their tools and supplies.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- How can we identify the components of the complete life cycle of a butterfly?
- How and why do artists and scientists document and represent nature?
- How can we use shapes and color to demonstrate how the primary colors can be used to create secondary colors?
- Why is craftsmanship important in art?

LEARNING TARGETS:

- The learner will identify the four stages of the life cycle of the butterfly.
- The learner will know the tools and process for creating a multi-layered gel print and ghost print.
- The learner will understand the color wheel and how primary colors can be used to create the full spectrum of color.
- The learner will understand craftsmanship.

NATIONAL VISUAL ART STANDARDS VISUAL ART/PRINTMAKING PROCESS

VA:Cr1.2.1a-3a VA:Cr2.3.1a-3a VA:Re.7.1.1a-3a
VA:Cr2.1.1a-3a VA:Pr4.1.1a-3a VA:Re9.1.1a-3a
VA:Cr2.2.1a-3a VA:Pr5.1.1a-3a VA:Cn10.1.1a-3a



VOCABULARY

Color Wheel

Primary Colors

Secondary Colors

Positive shape

Negative Shape

Texture

Gel Plate

Printmaking

Ghost Print

Egg

Pupa

Chrysalis

Butterfly

Life Cycle

Brayer

Plate

Visual Art/ Printmaking Process

SESSION 1

1. After completing the life cycle lesson, students will be introduced to the gel printmaking process using textured shapes.
2. Students will identify the four stages of the butterfly's life cycle and draw the shapes on textured paper.
3. Students will cut the four stages of the life cycle out of paper and share their work with a partner.
4. Students will write their name on the back of each shape.



Setting Up the Work Station

1. Remove plate from packaging and set protective sheets aside.
2. Tape a piece of printing paper on the work surface and center the gel plate on the taped paper. This will prevent the plate from sliding and provide a simple registration system for aligning the printing papers. Center the gel plate on the piece of paper of your design.

SESSIONS 2 & 3

1. Teacher will demonstrate the gel printmaking and inking process.
2. Students will ink their plate with yellow ink, distribute the shapes and pull an original and ghost print.
3. Students will ink their plate with the magenta ink, distribute the shapes and pull an original and ghost print using the first yellow prints.
4. Students will ink their plate with the Phthalo Blue ink, distribute the shapes and pull an original and ghost print using the first yellow print and ghost.
5. Students will sign their prints and organize a display.



The Gel Printing Process

1. Apply 1/2 tsp. of yellow Akua Intaglio Ink to the gel plate. Students can measure 1/2" on several coffee stir stick to use to avoid over-inking the gel plate.
2. Using the Speedball Soft Rubber Brayer, roll and lift the brayer over the ink until ink is evenly distributed on the plate. (If necessary, remove excess ink using the brayer and discharge the ink on newsprint.)
3. Arrange textured shapes texture side side down directly on the plate.
4. Place printing paper on inked gel plate.
5. Using a baren or the flat of your hand, rub the entire surface of the paper. Be sure to include all four corners and the center area of the plate.
6. Lift the paper from the plate. You will have a negative/ positive print.
7. Remove the textured shapes from the plate and pull the ghost print.
8. Repeat the steps 1-7 using magenta ink and again with blue ink.



Cleanup

Cleanup is an essential component of craftsmanship and critical for maintaining tools.

1. Remove any excess ink from the gel plate with newsprint or scrap paper.
2. Wipe plates with baby wipes or a solution of soapy water.
3. Allow plates to dry before returning to their packaging.
4. Discharge excess ink on the brayer by rolling off the ink on newsprint or scrap paper.
5. After the excess ink is removed, use a baby wipe or paper towel sprayed with soapy water to clean the brayer.
6. Store brayer roller side up and resting on the frame to avoid flattening the rubber cylinder.



TEACHING RESOURCES:

- <https://www.thebutterflysite.com/life-cycle.shtml>
- For more information about Gel Printing with Akua Inks and gel printing video lessons plans, visit <https://www.youtube.com/user/SpeedballArt/videos>