



GRADE 8

GEL PRINTING ON FABRIC

“Let’s Get Together”

SUPPLIES

- Speedball Gel Plate, 8" x 10"
- Speedball Soft Rubber Brayer, 4"
- Speedball Fabric Screen Printing Ink
- Speedball Baren (optional)
- Cotton fabric 6" x 20"
- Fabric markers (optional)
- Textures, stencils, low profile found objects such as string, mesh, lace, leaves
- Newsprint or recycled paper 8" x 10" or a bit larger
- Iron for heat setting fabric inks

LESSON

Using repetition and color, students create a printed fabric armband to collectively identify themselves around a theme or event. Example: Earth Day, community clean up day, school rally or team event. (Images pictured here represent armbands worn for Rake the Neighborhood, a weekend community service event providing fall yard clean up for senior citizens.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- What is the history of armbands?
- How are armbands used to signify unity or solidarity?
- What type of event or activity in our culture would be appropriate for wearing an armband as an identifier?
- How can we use textures, symbols and images to visually represent who we are and show unity?

NATIONAL VISUAL ART STANDARDS GRADES 6-8

VA:Cr1.1.6-8a VA:Cr2.2.6-8a VA:Re9.1.6-8a
VA:Cr1.2.6-8a VA:Cr3.2.6-8a VA:Cn10.1.6-8a
VA:Cr2.1.6-8a VA:Pr5.1.6-8a VA:Cn11.1.6-8a
VA:Cr1.2.6-8a VA:Re7.1.6-8a

Visual Art/ Printmaking Process

SESSION 1

1. Students will brainstorm ideas for an event or activity to wear their armband.
2. Students will identify the unifying color palette to be used in printing their armbands.
3. Students will identify and gather objects, textures, stamps, textures, and low-profile found objects, relevant to their theme.
4. Students will agree to share mark-making tools and stencils for creating their individual armbands.

SESSIONS 2 & 3

1. Students will each create an original and ghost print.
2. Using the soft rubber brayer, apply a heavy layer of Speedball Fabric Screen Printing Ink evenly on the Speedball Gel Printing Plate.
3. Arrange low profile items on the inked gel plate and place fabric over the plate. A sheet of newsprint or recycled paper can be placed over fabric if inked area is not completely covered with fabric to prevent smearing ink.
4. Use baren or clean brayer to transfer ink to the fabric.
5. Pull fabric from plate to reveal negative/positive print. If preferred, remaining plate ink can be removed using newsprint before removing the stencils to create the ghost print.
6. Optional: Repeat steps 1-6 to completely print the entire piece of fabric.
7. Clean stencils, gel plates and brayer and allow fabric to dry.

SESSION 4

1. Set a household iron at the highest dry heat (no steam) that will not scorch the fabric. With a cloth or paper between the iron and printed material, iron on each side for 1-3 minutes. This will heat set the ink to withstand washing.
2. Additional design elements or text can be added with optional fabric markers.



SESSION 5

1. Students create an artist statement to accompany their armbands.



TEACHING RESOURCES:

- <http://www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/design/blog/psychology-of-color/>
- For more information about Gel Printing or to find more gel printing video lessons plans, visit <https://www.youtube.com/user/SpeedballArt/videos>