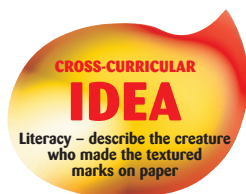


# Roller Printing

Develop skills in using a roller and extend by exploring textures and a variety of surfaces.

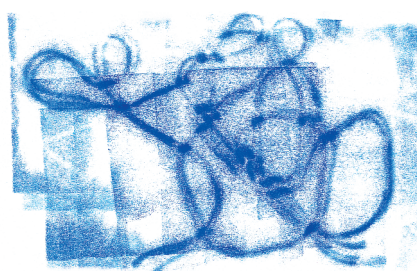
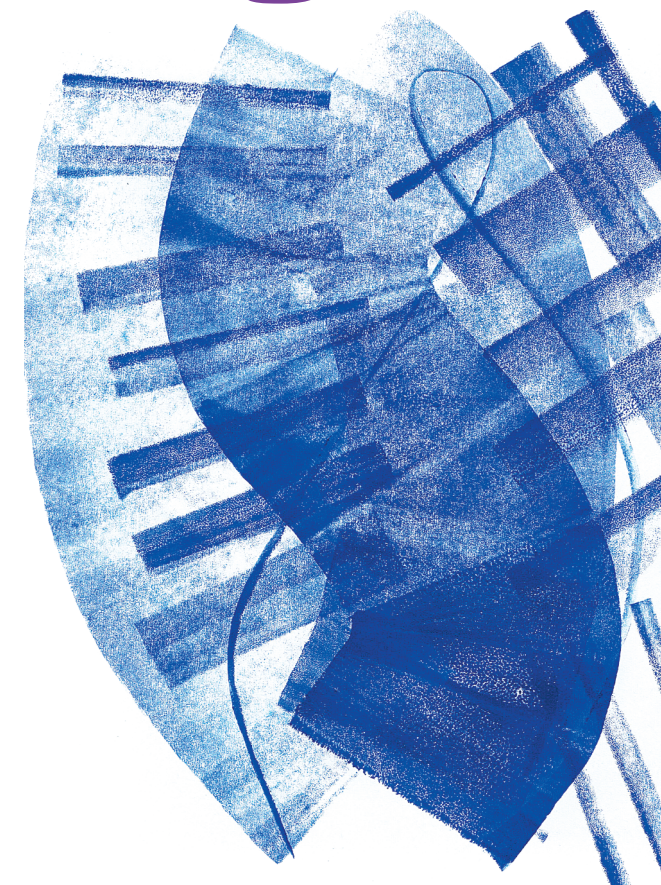
## Materials

Water-based printing ink  
Inking tray or sheet of Perspex  
Roller  
Cartridge paper  
Textured materials/objects  
Variety of papers to print on (optional).



## Method

- Demonstrate the correct way to ink up a roller making sure that the roller is lifted at the end of each roll as this spreads the ink evenly and avoids a heavy line of ink building up. Remind children that it is important to roll in 2 directions at 90° to each other (describe this as rolling north/south then east/west).
- Encourage the children to experiment by making marks on sugar paper with the roller e.g. what happens if they roll in a curve instead of a straight line? Try a series of short rolls on the paper then see if they can come up with other ways to move the roller so that different effects are produced.
- Show the children how different effects can be achieved by placing a textured surface or object under the paper before rolling across it.
- Encourage the children to experiment with a variety of objects and materials under their paper to produce a series of roller printed textures.
- The children could work in pairs or small groups to produce a textured surface made up of several objects placed together before roller printing over it.
- Extend this work by using a variety of different papers on which to make the roller prints. For example, compare prints made on tissue paper with those made on newspaper or paper that has been scrunched up before printing onto it.
- Discuss the work produced, encouraging the children to explain how they achieved different effects using appropriate vocabulary e.g. bumps, texture, ridges etc.



## Taking it Further

Try rolling an inked roller over a textured surface (e.g. Lego® bricks) then roll onto paper to transfer the pattern onto paper. Arrange pieces of cut card underneath the paper and roll over with inked roller – this makes interesting representational images if desired. Try wrapping elastic bands around the roller before printing.

This activity is focused towards children experimenting and learning through enquiry. Avoid having a fixed outcome in mind and encourage children to think broadly.