

# Plasticine® Printing

Build confidence in relief printing with simple print blocks then combine with different surfaces to explore the effect this has.

## Materials

Plasticine® or similar modelling material  
Objects to press into the modelling material  
Ready mixed paint  
Sponge  
Mixing tray or saucer  
A4 Cartridge paper  
Tissue paper - 2 or 3 colours  
PVA glue.

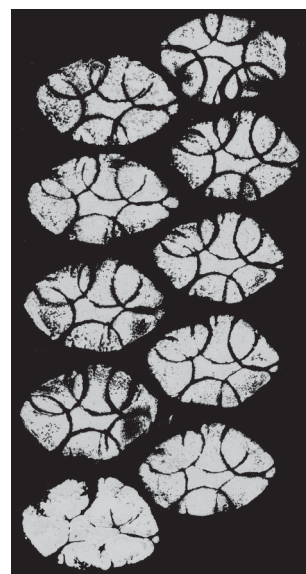
**NOTE: Avoid using Play Dough (or similar) as it is too soft and will distort during printing.**

## Method

- Prepare a surface to print on by tearing pieces of tissue paper, then glue down on cartridge paper overlapping as desired. Colours may change as paper is overlaid. Allow to dry.
- Give each child a piece of Plasticine® the size of a large conker and work it a little until it is smooth and malleable. Press it to the table to make a flat side.
- Choose an object and press into the flat surface to create a pattern. Over-patterning the surface can make it break up.
- Dab a sponge into a little paint it until it is coated but not too wet.
- Dab the paint onto the Plasticine® print block until the surface is covered.
- Press the print block down onto the paper then lift. If happy, repeat the prints, arranging them across the paper.
- If dissatisfied, wipe the paint off with a paper towel, rework the Plasticine® and start again.
- Practise making different arrangements of prints - try out different repeat patterns.

## Taking it Further

Experiment with printing on a range of different surfaces - try different papers e.g. brown paper, wallpaper, crepe paper etc. Work on a large scale with much larger pieces of Plasticine®. Print borders by making repeat patterns on long thin strips of paper then use these to make decorative borders around the classroom.



### CROSS-CURRICULAR IDEA

History - look at the start of letterpress printing for books and newspapers

The definition of relief printing is 'a technique in which parts of the printing surface that carry ink are left raised, while the remaining areas are cut away' (or in this case pressed inwards away from the surface). It is useful for children to start using the correct terminology as early as teachers consider appropriate.