

# Collagraph Prints

Combine a range of materials to make textured print blocks that are as individual as the children themselves.

## Materials

Examples of collagraph prints  
Thin card e.g. from cereal boxes  
PVA glue  
Brush for glue  
Hard pencil or old ballpoint pen  
Block Printing ink  
Rollers  
Cartridge paper.



## Method

- Show the children some examples of collagraph prints and talk about how the block is made. See if the children can work out what materials have been used in any of the prints.
- Demonstrate the making of a collagraph print block starting with the base plate made of card. Print blocks can be an exploration of shape and texture or can be composed to form an image e.g. buildings in the local area. The method is as follows;
- Cut pieces from another piece of card and glue onto the base plate.
- Make sure everything is firmly glued down then coat the entire base plate with PVA glue and allow to dry. This helps to strengthen the printing plate.
- If desired, children can impress lines into the card by drawing firmly with a hard pencil or an old ballpoint pen. They can add texture or accent lines depending on the chosen design.
- Show the children how to ink up their collagraph plates by first inking up a roller as normal then rolling across the plate in two directions at 90° to each other.
- Place the collagraph plate face down onto cartridge paper then use a clean roller to roll firmly down over the back of the plate. Try to avoid moving the block on the plate but ensure that firm pressure is used all over.
- Lift the collagraph plate up to reveal the finished print.



## Taking it Further

Experiment with printing onto different types of surface e.g. tissue paper, textured paper. Make larger print blocks and use a rolling pin to roll firmly over the back to make the print. Focus on making a collagraph block of local buildings then a different type of landscape.

Every child can succeed with collagraph printing. The less able will create simpler images while the more able will become engaged in detailed experimentation, adding a wide range of surfaces and marks to their print block.