



Positive and Negative Prints

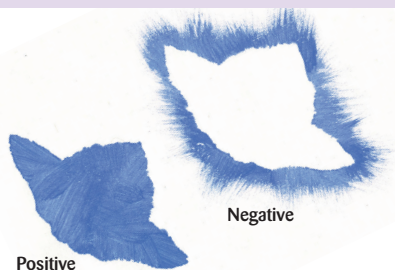
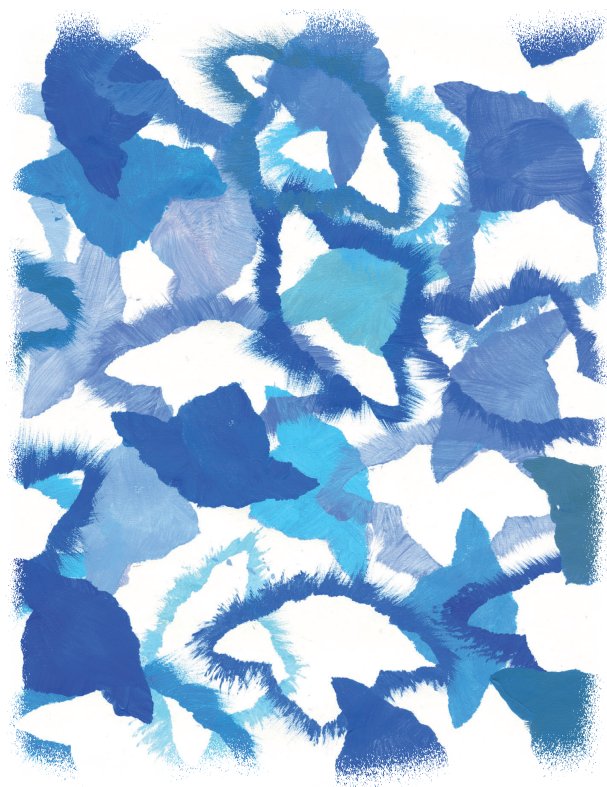
This activity involves printing with positive and negative paper stencils. It is straightforward to do and enables the children to learn new techniques as well as deepening their understanding.

Materials

Thin paper such as newsprint
Sponge
Ready mixed paint
Flat tray for paint
Paper to print on e.g. sugar paper.

Method

- Show the children examples of negative and positive stencil prints.
- Model the tearing of a stencil – it is easier to fold the paper in half and tear along the fold.
- Model using the paint to make prints showing how to apply paint by stroking out from the centre of the negative stencil then in to the centre using the positive stencil.
- Give the children time to practise using both negative and positive stencils to ensure they are using the correct technique.
- Make overlapping prints using both stencils but ensure the children start with light colours then add darker colours as light colours will not show well over dark.
- Experiment with printing onto a range of different surfaces and papers.



**CROSS-CURRICULAR
IDEA**
Maths – regular and irregular
shapes, area and perimeter

Taking it Further

Link the stencil shapes with other themes e.g. leaf shapes in Autumn, egg shapes in Spring etc. Try arranging the stencil prints into regular repeated patterns, see if the shapes will tessellate or arrange them into flower shapes, starbursts or other interesting arrangements.

Differentiation in Art is generally by outcome. However, the variety involved in this task allows for greater differentiation than usual. For less able children restrict the printing to one or two colours while for the more able try working on a larger scale, creating a giant surface by layering a range of papers then printing on top with much bigger stencils.