

# Collagraph Printmaking

Collagraph is a basic a method of printmaking using a board with collage materials glued onto it to form a relief surface with a variety of textures. A very creative and experimental form of printmaking, collagraph prints can be made with many different materials, including cardboard, yarn, fabric, leaves, masking tape and more.

**Grade Levels** 2-8

*Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.*

## Preparation

Cut chipboard into 8" x 10" pieces using a paper trimmer or packing knife.



## Process

1. Glue collage materials onto the chipboard to make a specific image or an abstract design, see (A). The printmaking term for this surface is a "plate." Remember, prints will be made in reverse. Some ideas for materials to use:
  - Cut shapes from cardboard or posterboard
  - Textured paper, such as corrugated paper
  - Fabric, felt, burlap or canvas
  - Craft foam shapes, chenille stems
  - Yarn, twine or string
  - Leaves, seeds, small twigs and other organic materials
  - Straw or raffia
  - [Blickrylic™ Gesso](#) (00711-1017) to create a variety of brush strokes and paint-like textures
  - Sand
  - Rice

NOTE: The collage should not be thicker than 1/4" and the materials should not have any sharp edges that might rip the paper.



## Materials

[All-Purpose Chipboard](#), double thick (13115-2232); use one 22" x 28" sheet per six students

Materials for collage, see at left

[Blickrylic™ Polymer GlossMedium](#) (00711-1027), share two quarts across classroom

[Elmer's® Glue-All](#), 4-oz bottle (23810-1004); one per student

[Blick® Water-soluble Block Printing Ink](#), assorted colors, (40305-); share six 5-oz tubes across class

[Inovart™ Soft Rubber Brayer](#), 6" (40121-1006); need one per ink color

[Speedball® Baren](#) (42905-1045); share two or three across classroom

[Copperplate Printmaking Paper](#) (10435-1022); share one 22" x 30" sheet between four students

Optional: scrap fabric for dauber

## Process, continued

2. Once the collage is created and the glue is dry, materials need to be sealed to protect them from the ink. Cover the entire plate with a single coat of Blickrylic™ Polymer Gloss Medium and allow to dry.
3. Apply ink to the collage. Work quickly, because water-based ink will dry in a short time. Apply ink either by:
  - Rolling: squeeze a drop of ink out on an inking plate and roll a rubber brayer through it until the roller is covered. Apply to the collage with long, even strokes, see (B).
  - Daubing: use a sponge or make a hand daubing tool by wrapping a piece of scrap fabric around a ball of more scrap fabric and twisting to form a handle. Dip the dauber in the ink and spread it quickly around the collage, see (C).
4. Carefully lay the paper over the inked surface. Use a good-quality paper made for printmaking for best results. Rub a baren over the surface using a circular motion and firm pressure. Make sure all areas are covered by the baren.
5. Pull the paper carefully away and view the print. Set aside and allow ink to dry. Clean up ink with soap and water.



## Options:

1. Make multiple color prints by either:
  - Daubing multiple colors of ink onto the collage and printing them all at once.
  - Starting with the lightest color, make a print. Then, clean the collage plate off with a damp paper towel, apply the next color and print it, aligning it carefully over the first print.
2. Make multiple collage plates of varying textures and layer them in one print. Use at least two colors of ink, so that each plate is distinctly visible.

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## National Standards

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes

**K-4** Students use different media, techniques, and processes to communicate ideas, experiences, and stories

**5-8** Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques, and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas