

Stamp Out Extinction

TEP Exhibition: *World of the Wild*

Intentions

- Students will learn a basic block printing technique.
- Students will examine the way in which artists use specific media types to convey an idea.
- Students will become familiar with issues of animal endangerment and extinction of local species.
- Students will examine the way in which an artwork can contribute to a social cause.

Materials

- Styrofoam plates, or styrofoam scratch-foam from an art supplier
- Tools that can be used to make indentations on the styrofoam. For example, pencils, toothpicks, popsicle sticks etc.
- School-grade block printing ink
- Block printing brayer(s)
- Cardstock, or some type of heavy weight paper approximately 12x18
- Colored pencils, markers, or crayons
- Scratch paper

Backdrop

The **World of the Wild**, sponsored by Utah's Hogle Zoo, is the annual art show featuring artworks of animals and the wild. The art of depicting animals is an ancient one. Prehistoric paintings can still be seen in Lascaux, France; Altamira, Spain; Africa and Australia. Fremont and Anasazi Indians of Utah also drew animal images as a form of spiritual empowerment. The ancient Egyptians drew and modeled animals with great care based upon the observation of nature. In modern times, wildlife artists such as James Audubon have been instrumental in raising public awareness of endangered species. We hope by focusing more attention on the wilder side of nature that the public will gain a greater awareness and appreciation for wildlife.

This lesson will encourage students to examine wild animals in their community that may be endangered or approaching extinction. By creating a poster through printmaking techniques, students will encourage awareness and conservation of an animal. Historically, printmaking techniques were used as a means of easily replicating an image in order to distribute information and communicate messages whether political, social, religious or otherwise. Towards the 17th and 18th centuries, printmaking became recognized as an art form, rather than only a means of communication. Many artists choose media types and materials that directly reflect their message. By using a medium that has replication at its core, this can mimic the idea of repopulating or recreating a species that may be endangered. Printmaking is also a fitting medium to spread the word about an important cause since many copies can be made and widely distributed.



Maxwell Sueoka

Activity

1. Students should begin by researching animals in their community that are either endangered or extinct (see links below).
2. Students should gather a small list of facts that explain why the animal is threatened, as well as present solutions about the issue.
3. Have students use scratch paper to do a preliminary sketch of their animal. For the styrofoam, prints that are not too detailed or complicated tend to work best.
4. Begin with either pre-prepared scratch-foam in small sizes appx. 6x9, or cut out the center of a styrofoam plate or packaging container to include only the flat portion.
5. Using various tools such as pencils or toothpicks, students should draw a final copy of their image onto the styrofoam. Caution students not to push too hard as to puncture the styrofoam. Pushing too soft will also result in an inadequate printing surface.
6. Have students divide their cardstock into two areas; first where their image will be transferred, and second, a portion where their facts and solutions can be written.
7. Students should write their text portion onto their cardstock first, either in marker, crayon, etc. so as not to disturb the wet ink once printed.
8. After the text is complete, apply ink to the styrofoam block with a brayer. If you are unable to acquire a brayer, you can gently sponge the paint onto the styrofoam block, being careful not to fill the indentations.
9. Carefully position the ink-side-down onto the cardstock and firmly press down. You can use a spoon or other flat surface to press downward making sure the ink transfers well.
10. Carefully peel the styrofoam away from the paper and allow print to dry.
11. As a group have students present their posters to the class and discuss what they have researched.
12. Coordinate with a school administrator to hang posters in your school or community.

LINKS WE LIKE:

[STYROFOAM BLOCK PRINTING DEMO](#)

[ENDANGERED SPECIES EXAMPLE POSTER](#)

[ENDANGERED SPECIES IN UTAH](#)

[SENSITIVE SPECIES IN UTAH](#)

Links to the Core

Visual Arts:

- Use a visual arts form as a help in expressing an idea in a non-art subject. Students demonstrate how history, culture, and the visual arts can influence each other in making and studying works of art.

Language Arts:

-Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.*
-Explain how specific images (e.g., a diagram showing how a machine works) contribute to and clarify a text.*

Science:

-Students will understand the physical characteristics of Utah's wetlands, forests, and deserts and identify common organisms for each environment.

**indicates link to
Common Core*