EXPERIMENTAL PRINTS using Nasco Safety-Kut®

OBJECTIVES
Students will...
• Gain an understanding of the printing process by creating a print
• Enhance their ability to create a black and white graphic design
• Expand their approach to creating artwork by using experimental explorations

MATERIALS
• Nasco Hardcover Spiral Sketchbooks, 8½” x 11” — 9720396
• Nasco Safety-Kut® Blocks:
  4” x 6” — 9704655
  5” x 7” — 9739797
• Speedball® Lino Cutters Set — 9733406
• Nasco Country School™ Construction Paper, 9” x 12”, 50 sheets
  Assorted colors — 9727121(AB)
  Black — 9727121(A)
• Spectra® Deluxe Bleeding Art Tissue™, assorted 10 colors, 12” x 18”, pkg. of 50 — 9701231
• Pacon® Super Heavyweight Tag Board, white, 9” x 12”, pkg. of 100 — 9737901
• Black Tag Board, 8½” x 11” — 9722750
• Nasco Water-Soluble Block Printing Ink, 5-oz. Tube Set — 9728095
• Nasco Economy Brayers:
  Hard rubber — 8200129
  Soft rubber — 8200130

2 LESSONS IN ONE
project extension:
Tree Identification Books

Developed with Wendy Goldsmith | Grades 6-8
1. Have students view a variety of black and white prints. One of the resource books featuring a variety of prints that you may find helpful is Hardlines by Richard Mock, a publication from the Plains Art Museum. Included in this book are social commentary prints created by students of varying ages. **Discuss the print examples you have gathered with your students and include the following vocabulary in your discussion:**
   - Line variation
   - Negative and positive space
   - Balance

2. Have students develop and plan their designs, recording them in a journal they will keep in class.

3. Next, have students transfer their designs to Safety-Kut®. Using a #2 pencil, transfer graphite to the reverse side of the design. Then place the design face-down on the surface of the print block. Using your thumb, a spoon back, or a ruler, transfer the design to the surface of the Safety-Kut® by rubbing and applying slight pressure.

4. Review safety rules prior to allowing students to carve their designs. Emphasize how to use the linoleum cutters safely, remembering to always cut away from your other hand.

5. Demonstrate to the class how to cut a variety of lines by changing the size of the blade and also by varying the distance and depth between each line. Caution students about carving too deeply. Safety-Kut® is easily carved and requires very little pressure to create detailed lines. You can always remove more material if desired after a test print is made.

6. Have students print multiple proofs throughout the carving process to give them an idea of the detail they have created.

7. Now comes the fun part. Each student now has a black and white proof of their design. Challenge students to use this print as a starting point for experimentation. **Have students experiment by printing on:**
   - Colored construction paper
   - Tissue papers — solids or prints
   - Newspaper
   - Black paper using white ink
   - Cardboard/tagboard

8. After experimenting, have students write up a proposal for the final project, including materials they are going to use listing their goals for the final results. **Have students vary design elements by:**
   - Repeating the image
   - Repeating and changing the direction of the print block while printing
Work with the science teacher at your school to develop a tree/leaf identification unit if there is not one currently being used. Have students come to art class prepared with folders containing the data required by the science teacher, including actual leaves, information pertaining to identifying the tree by use of the leaf, and other characteristics of the trees themselves that would be helpful in identifying and distinguishing one from another.

In addition to the activities above, have students do contour drawings of their leaves, as well as write a poem about trees.

Set up stations in the classroom for the following activities:

- Papermaking — Use a blender and water to make pulp, then have students spread the pulp on small wood frames stretched with screen. (You can purchase ready-made screens from Nasco.)
- Leaf Prints — Have students ink the leaves they have collected, experimenting with brayers and printing inks in a variety of colors. Next, have students create their final prints using white paper.
- Leaf Rubbings — Have students place different types and weights of paper over leaves that have been laid vein-side-up, then use unwrapped crayons to create leaf rubbings on the paper.

In addition to the activities above, have students do contour drawings of their leaves, as well as write a poem about trees.
1. Have each student start with three sheets each of 12” x 18” white drawing paper, fold sheets in half, then place folded sheets inside each other.

2. Use scraps of Nasco Safety-Kut® and carve a design using lino cutters.

3. Color the surface of the carved printing blocks using Crayola® markers, then print along the three edges of the folded sheets (do not print along the folded edges).

4. Glue data sheets into books using glue sticks and being careful to center on each page.

5. Place pressed leaf samples from science class on the opposite page and cover with clear Con-Tact® paper.

6. Add an additional piece of 12” x 18” white paper around the other folded data sheets (this is to house the students’ poems and other projects).

7. Using another piece of 12” x 18” paper (colored or white), have each student create a cover design on the right-hand side only (reinforce each side with tagboard for strength).

8. Punch book with a three-hole punch and bind book by attaching a stick to the three holes using jute, yarn, or embroidery floss.

9. Make a fastener to keep the book closed by attaching a small, short stick to the front cover using jute, yarn, or embroidery floss and tying through two small holes punched near the opening edge of the cover. Attach another piece of jute, yarn, or embroidery floss through a hole punched near the opening edge of the back cover and attach decorative beads to the end. Book is kept closed by taking the beaded string attached to the back cover and winding it around the small stick attached to the front cover.