

Artists for Kids Collagraph Kit: Foam Butterflies Lesson Plan

Grades 4-7

Created in collaboration with Paul Best



Activity:

Students will make collagraph prints, creating relief shapes cut from foam sheets and using additive and subtractive cutout techniques. In creating their collagraph print blocks, students will replicate the design of a butterfly.

Students will learn the following skills:

- tracing, cutting, and gluing techniques
- assembling shapes and lines with foam sheets and optionally textured collage materials
- using the hand printing press to reproduce prints on dry paper with foam
- optionally printing on damp paper to create embossed print
- planning and design processes and principles of design

Materials Provided in Collagraph Printmaking Kit:

- 6 brayers of various width
- 4 inking plexi plates
- 30 acetate sheets
- 2 palette knives
- 4 paint scrapers (2 plastic, 2 metal)
- 2 hand presses with felt and acrylic printing blankets
- Soap, 2 sponges, and 2 squirt bottles
- Paper soaking tray
- Laminated lesson plan with butterfly tracing template

Materials Provided by Teacher/School:

- 1 5"x7" foam sheet per student (packs of foam can be purchased online or from dollar store)
- Class set of pencils
- Class set of glue sticks
- Class set of scissors
- Ultrafine or fine Sharpie markers
- Tracing paper (1 8.5"x11" piece per student)
- Butterfly tracing template (1 copy per student)
- Paper towels
- Optional: aprons
- Optional: cotton string and other textural collage materials (if using, will also need white glue)

Paper Options (available from school or Staples):

- 8.5"x11" white card stock (1 per student)
- 8.5"x11" white printer paper (1 per student)
- 9"x12" construction paper (1 per student)

Paper Options (available from Opus):

- 8 sheets of 20"x26" Finch Opaque Vellum (cut into 6 @ 8.5"x10" sheets, 1 per student) (price per sheet: \$0.94 with Educator's Discount)
- If planning to pre-soak paper for embossed effect: 4 sheets of 30"x22" Stonehenge White (cut into 8 @ 11"x 7.5" sheets, 1 per student) (price per sheet: \$5.70 with Educator's Discount)

Ink (available from Opus):

- Akua Intaglio Ink – 8 oz, Prussian Blue: \$29.24 with Educator's Discount (**note: the Prussian Blue Akua ink is more liquid than the black Akua ink and works better for this project**)

North Vancouver Opus Store : 604-904-0447

Inquiry Questions:

- What can we learn from the designs and patterns on butterfly wings?
- What makes a design interesting and balanced?
- How can patterns in nature inform design choices people make?

Big Ideas:

- Artists experiment in a variety of ways to discover new possibilities and perspectives (**Arts Education**)
- Works of art influence and are influenced by the world around us (**Arts Education**)
- Designs can be improved with prototyping and testing (**ADST**)
- Living things have life cycles adapted to their environment (**Science**)

First Peoples Principles of Learning

- Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place).

Curricular Competencies: What students will DO

Students will be able to use the following creative process(es):

- Create a collagraph using ideas inspired by imagination, inquiry, experimentation, and purposeful design (**Arts Education**)

- Develop and refine technical skills required to create a collagraph printing block and reproduce a print through the printmaking process (**Arts Education**)

Concepts and Content: What students will KNOW

Students will know the following concepts and content:

- Elements and principles of art and design including shape, line, texture, form, balance, repetition, emphasis, and variety (**Arts Education**)
- Processes, materials, and techniques needed to create a collagraph print (**Arts Education**)

Core Competencies (suggested questions for reflection)

- **COMMUNICATION:** What shapes, textures, and repetitions did you use in your collagraph print to communicate the likeness of a butterfly?
- **THINKING:** What can we learn from the designs and patterns on butterfly wings and in nature?
- **PERSONAL AND SOCIAL:** What differences and similarities did you observe between the collagraph prints that you and your classmates created?

Suggested Descriptive Feedback

- Nora has designed a collagraph print considering the elements of line, space, balance, repetition, and variety.
- Nora has used a variety of additive and subtractive cutting and gluing techniques to create a collagraph print. She has refined technical skills required to create a collagraph print, including tracing, inking, and using a hand printing press.
- Nora demonstrates personal responsibility when creating art, contributing to a safe learning environment. Nora actively contributes to cleaning up art materials and work space.

Displaying Student Artwork

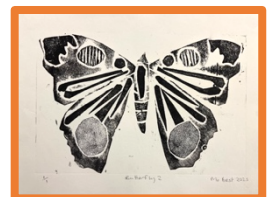
The following are tips for displaying the finished collagraphs at your school:

- Have students work together to arrange their finished artworks, creating a collaborative class composition.
- Include a title and description with the display of finished artwork. For example:

Collagraph Butterfly Prints by Div.2
Created with the Artists for Kids Collagraph Print Kit

Inquiry Questions:
 What can we learn from the designs and patterns on butterfly wings?
 What makes a design interesting and balanced?

We learned about techniques to make collagraph prints!



Suggested Summative Assessment Rubric for Collagraphs

Teachers are invited to adapt and edit the following evaluation rubric:

	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
Symbolism and Image Development: Student has intentionally created shapes and textures on their collagraph print block to represent a butterfly.				
Composition: Student has thoughtfully planned and considered the composition of their collagraph print block, thinking about positive and negative space, using the elements of line, space, balance, repetition, unity, and variety.				
Material, Technique, and Tool Exploration: Student has followed teacher directed processes in creating a collagraph print block and print using a hand press. Student's artmaking techniques demonstrate care, craftsmanship, and purposeful play.				
Studio Habits "Work Habits": Student demonstrates personal and collective responsibility when creating art, contributing to a safe learning environment. Student actively contributes to cleaning up art materials and work space.				

Step-by-Step Collagraph Lesson Guide

CLASS DISCUSSION:

- What can we learn from the designs and patterns on butterfly wings?
- What makes a design interesting and balanced?
- Why might the patterns on a butterfly's wings help it survive?
- How can patterns in nature inform design choices people make?

VIEW AND DISCUSS EXAMPLES OF BUTTERFLIES:

- Optionally share info and images about the Painted Lady Butterfly (*Vanessa Cardui*), which is the most widespread of all butterfly species.
- Global climatic events may affect the migratory behaviour of the Painted Lady Butterflies.
- Books about Painted Lady Butterflies (both books are available as YouTube read alouds):
 - *The Little Butterfly That Could* by Ross Burach (2021)
 - *From Caterpillar to BUTTERFLY* by Deborah Heiligman and illustrated by Bari Weissman (2015)

OPTIONALLY INTRODUCE THE ARTWORK OF JACK SHADBOLT

- Project images of Jack Shadbolt's prints that feature butterflies (see end of document for images).
- Ask the class the following question:
 - How has Jack Shadbolt used pattern, symmetry and asymmetry within his butterfly prints?
- Share the following information about Jack Shadbolt with students:
 - Jack Shadbolt (1909-1998) was an influential Canadian Artist known for his expressive and colourful paintings and prints. His pieces reflect his deep appreciation for our environment and the living things within it. He often explored themes such as growth, decay and regeneration within his work. He lived and studied on the West Coast of Canada for most of his young life and his work has since been shown at galleries all over the world.



Jack Shadbolt, *End of Season*, 1993, lithograph on paper, 27 x 36 inches. Image courtesy of the artist.

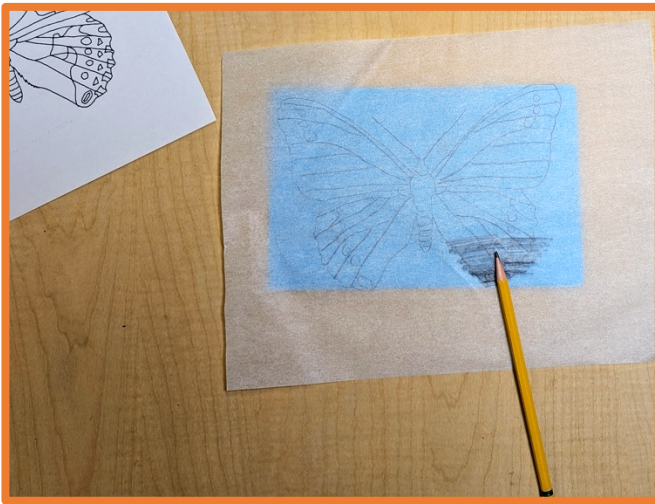
INTRO PROJECT:

- Students will create a collagraph plate and print this plate. They will represent a butterfly and explore shape, pattern, and line.

TRACING AND TRANSFERRING BUTTERFLY DESIGN:

- Distribute to each student an 8.5"x11" sheet of tracing paper, a pencil, and a photocopy of the butterfly tracing template.
- Students should trace the outline of the butterfly, as well as details within the outline that they wish to include in their own print. Students can add their own details, as well.





- Hand out a 5"x7" sheet of foam to each student.
- Have students place their traced butterfly design face down onto their foam sheet. To transfer the butterfly design onto the foam, students should shade in the back of their butterfly design using the edge (not the tip) of their pencil (see image, above). Students can optionally tape their tracing paper in place so that it does not move around when transferring the design.
- Students can then optionally outline their design on the foam using a Sharpie.

MAKING A COLLAGRAPH PLATE WITH CUT FOAM SHAPES GLUED TO ACETATE SHEETS:

- Demonstrate how to cut out the butterfly design from the foam sheet.
- Place a sheet of acetate over top of the printed butterfly template to use as a guide.
- Cut out one section at a time using scissors. Students will cut out what their skill level allows.
- Carefully cut out details inside the main shapes.
- Assemble all the cut-out shapes on the acetate sheet and lay out the most harmonious composition before gluing.





- Glue foam shapes to the acetate sheet with glue stick. Allow for some drying time.
- Can optionally add shapes to the butterfly design using textured collage materials. If adding textured collage materials, use white glue and allow for additional drying time.

PRINTING COLLAGRAPHS:

- Akua Intaglio ink is much slower drying than traditional block printing ink, like Speedball. It is also water soluble for ease of clean up. The bonus is that less ink is needed.
- Use palette knife (provided) to apply ink to inking plate (approximately 1 tsp of ink at a time).



- Use brayer to spread ink evenly over the inking plate, concentrate the ink in the middle of the plate so that it does not dry out.
- Roll ink onto the butterfly shape. Apply ink in a north-south and diagonal direction to evenly ink the block.





- Place the inked collagraph block (acetate sheet with foam butterfly glued onto it) acetate side down on the lower bed of the press.
- Place a piece of "good copy" paper on top of the inked collagraph block. Place an additional piece of paper on top of the "good copy" paper (could be printer paper, newsprint, or a piece of paper towel).
- Next place the blue acrylic blanket and then the white felt.
- Close the hand press and press strongly down on the handle.
- Make sure there is no ink on your fingers when you pull the finished print!



CLEANING UP:

- ***Please note that for clean-up the Akua ink is water soluble when you use both SOAP and water***
- The cut out butterfly shapes (made of foam) should be peeled or scraped off of the acetate sheets. The acetate sheets should then be cleaned with soap and water before returning them to Artists for Kids.



Jack Shadbolt, *End of Season*, 1993, lithograph on paper



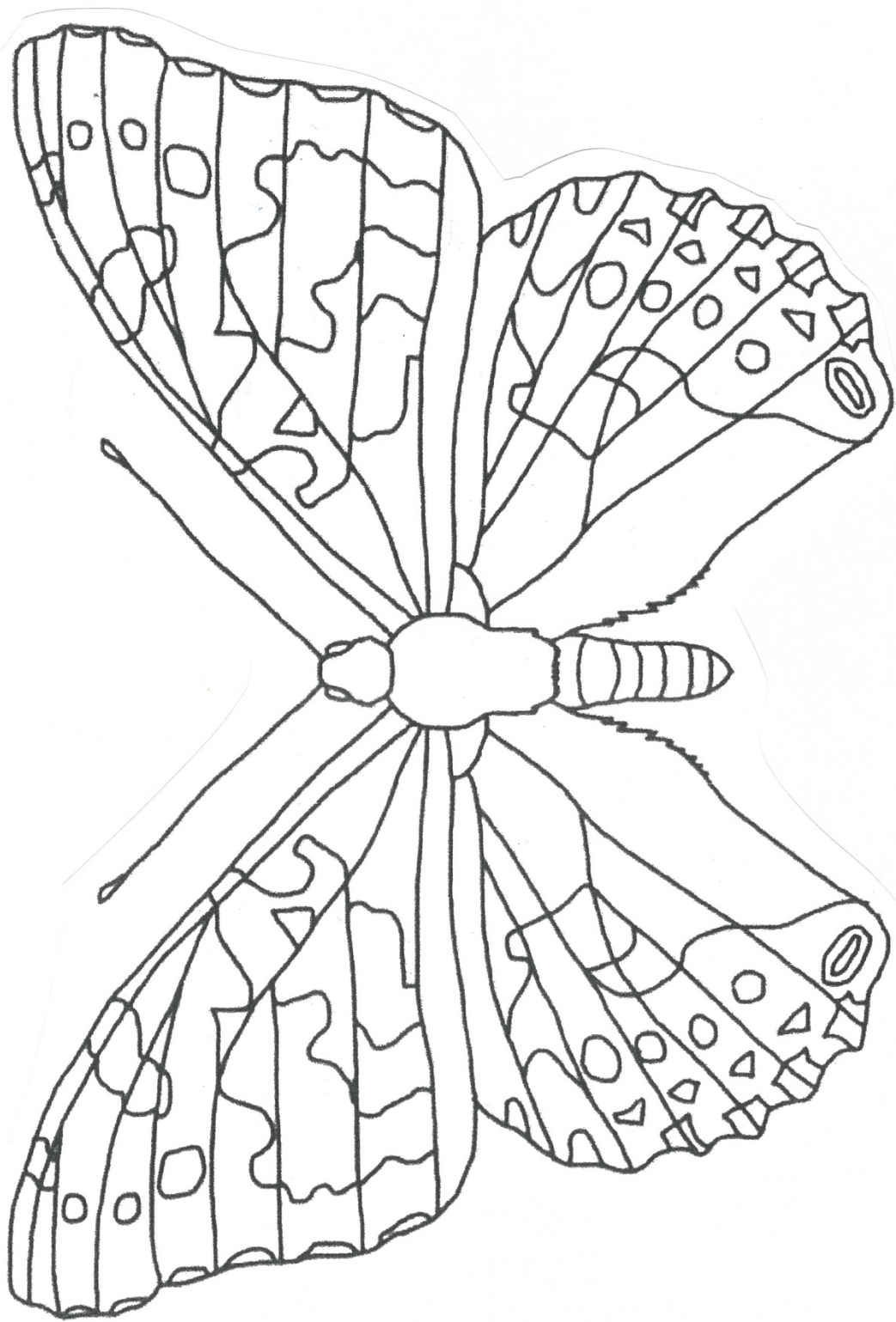
Jack Shadbolt,
*Night
Transformation*,
1997, chalk
and ink on
paper



Jack Shadbolt,
Captive White,
1993,
lithograph on
paper



Jack Shadbolt, *Jardin Noir*, 1994, lithograph on paper



Butterfly Tracing Template