

Educator Guide

Printmaking

RELATED WORK OF ART



Vase with the “Three Friends of Winter”: Pine, Plum, and Bamboo

Unidentified artist

Japan, 1876

Silver, gold

Acquired by William T. Walters, 1876, acc. no. 57.1184

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

This resource includes instructions to make an art print inspired by the *Vase with the "Three Friends of Winter": Pine, Plum, and Bamboo*, 57.1184. This resource is recommended for Middle and High School students and Visual Arts subjects. Students will practice creating artistic prints inspired by the cultural symbolism of the *Vase with the "Three Friends of Winter": Pine, Plum, and Bamboo*. These suggestions were informed by the Maryland State Department of Education 2024 standards.

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR ARTMAKING:

- 4x6 inch printmaking foam
- Water-based printmaking ink

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR CLEAN-UP:

- Water
- Soap

- Plastic plate
- Brayer
- Pen
- Pencil
- 4x6 inch cardstock paper
- Scrap paper larger than 4x6
- Paper towels
- Sponge

LESSON STEPS

1. Traditionally in Japan, a representation of pine, plum, and bamboo together symbolizes perseverance, endurance, and integrity through difficult times.

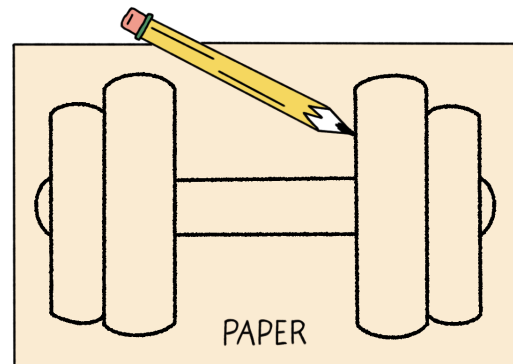
This activity focuses on the same theme, but centered around your ideas and identity.

To start, think of 3 or 4 objects, places, or people that help you stay strong during hard times.



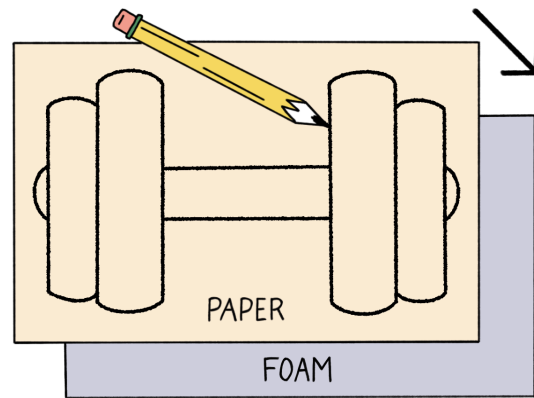
2. Pick your favorite of the 3 or 4 ideas you wrote down that you want to include in your artwork.

On your small piece of cardstock paper, create a sketch of your idea using only lines.

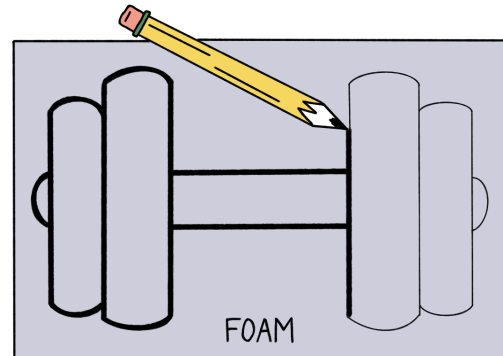


3. Set your line drawing on top of your foam, making sure the drawing doesn't extend past the edge of the foam.

Then using a pen or pencil, trace over the lines of your original drawing, pressing hard enough to leave an indentation of your original drawing on the foam.

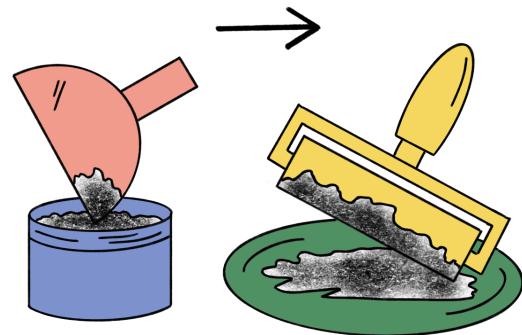


4. Once you have traced over your entire drawing, remove the paper and then using a pen or pencil directly on the foam, go over the indented drawing to deepen the lines.



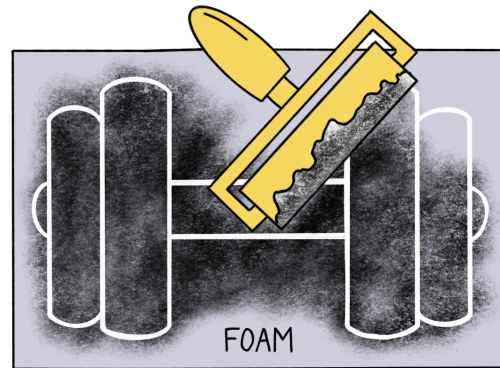
5. Using your paint scraper, scoop out a pea-sized amount of ink and wipe it onto your plate.

Using your brayer, roll out the ink onto the plate. The goal of this is to create an even layer of ink on the roller of the brayer. Continue to go back and forth, until this is achieved.



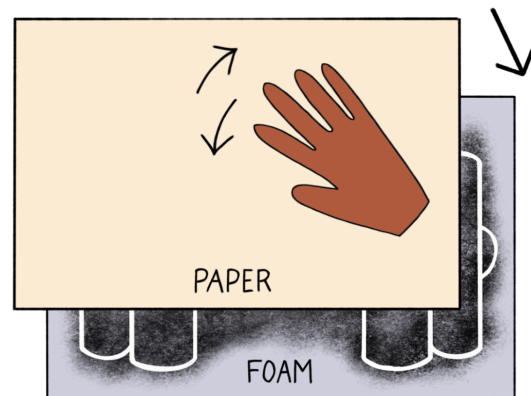
6. Place your foam on top of a piece of scrap paper to keep your table clean.

Now, using the ink on your brayer, gently roll a thin layer of ink onto your foam, making sure not to be getting ink into the indented lines. If you do get ink in the lines, wash the ink off your foam and try again, using less ink and less pressure.

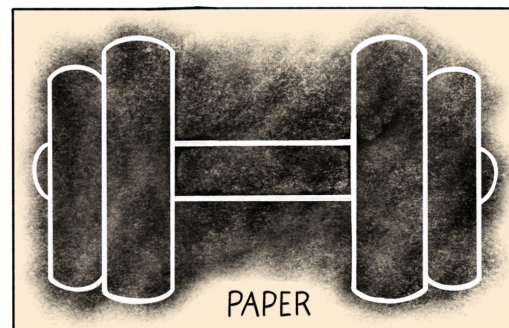


7. Lay your cardstock paper on top of your foam, making sure that all of the foam is covered by paper.

Using the palm of your hand, gently rub back and forth across the cardstock to transfer the ink from your foam to the paper.



8. Peel the paper off of the foam revealing your print. Then, set the print aside to dry.



9. Your printing foam can be used again and again! Wipe it down with a damp sponge and dry with a paper towel so you can re-ink your foam for another print!

When everyone has finished and clean-up is complete, take a few minutes to walk around the room to see how others chose to represent strength.

