

“Radial Printmaking”



Objective: Create a design with radial balance using a block printing process.

Materials

- Square Carving Blocks
- Carving Tools
- Printing Paper
- Printing Ink
- Brayers

Motivation

- I start this lesson with photos of yummy food on the board. We talk about how all the pieces of a pizza, an ice cream cake, etc... meet in the middle to make a whole image.
- Then, we talk about how images that exhibit radial balance are the same “no matter how you slice it.”

Step 1: Introduction

Introduce (or review) radial balance. Introduce the steps needed to create a block print. Help students understand that they need to carve away areas where they want the paper color to show and leave areas where they want the ink color to show.

Step 2: Create Printing Blocks

Students will need to create one “slice” of a radial design on their printing blocks. Starting in one corner, have students draw out their designs. Then, have them carve their image according to their positive/negative space plan.

Step 3: Print

Have students mark the center point on the back side of their printmaking blocks. Students should print the block four times on the same paper, making sure to keep the center point in the middle each time.

Tip: Once dry, trim prints and mount on colored paper to finish them off!

Tip: Some students may need to sketch out a complete radial design first to get a feel for what a “slice” of a design might look like.

Tip: These would look awesome printed with black ink on fluorescent paper.