

Stamp Printing

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will design, create, and use a carved stamp to print a repeated pattern.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- a foam sheet or large eraser
- a pencil or carving tool (a dull pencil works for foam)
- ink pad, paint, or washable stamp pad
- paper

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Sketch a simple design (a shape, initial, or small icon) on paper first, keeping it bold and simple since fine detail is hard to carve.
2. Transfer your design onto a foam sheet or eraser by pressing firmly with a pencil to carve the lines into the surface (or cut away the background if using foam).
3. Press your stamp onto an ink pad or dab it with paint, then stamp it onto paper 6 times in a row to test consistency, evaluating which prints came out cleanest.
4. Arrange your best 4-6 stamped impressions into a deliberate repeating pattern (a row, a grid, or a border) on a clean sheet of paper.

QUESTIONS

1. **Why did you keep your carved design simple and bold rather than very detailed?**

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2. **Out of your 6 test stamps, which came out cleanest, and what did you do differently for that one?**

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3. **Describe the repeating pattern arrangement you created with your best prints.**

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4. **How is a hand-carved stamp similar to and different from a printing press block used historically?**

