



Printmaking with Cardboard Stamps

Materials

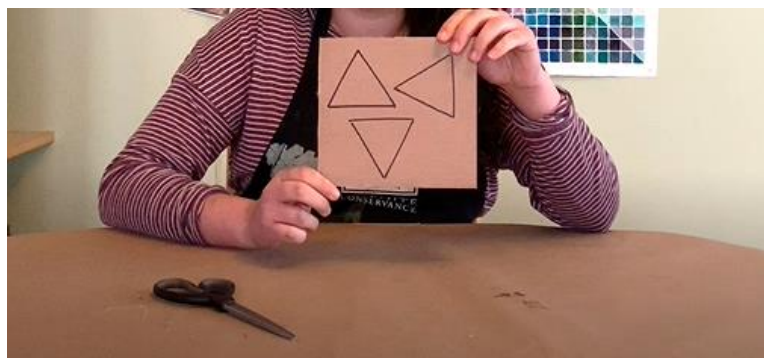
- Cardboard
- Paper (cardstock, watercolor or similar)
- Scissors or X-Acto knife
- Pen or pencil
- Hot glue gun or white glue
- Acrylic paint, tempura paint or printing ink
- Brush
- Plate (or paint palette)



Making this project with kids? Some steps in this project might require extra supervision, depending on the tools you have on hand! Help kids cut out their cardboard shapes, especially if they're using an X-Acto knife, and use a hot glue gun.

Instructions

1. Think about what you want to create, and what stamp shapes you'll need. For example, you could use triangles and a square to create the silhouette of a tree, or a circle and ovals to create a flower. For this example, we'll make a tree, but you can create anything you want!
2. Draw shapes on a piece of paper. To make a tree, draw a triangle and a square or rectangle. Cut out the shapes to create paper stencils.
3. Trace each shape onto your cardboard three times. If you're making a tree, you'll end up with three triangles and three squares or rectangles.



4. Use scissors or an X-Acto knife to cut the shapes out of the cardboard.



5. Take your cardboard shapes and glue similar shapes together in a stack to create a thick, sturdy stamp. If you're making a tree, you'll glue all the triangles together, and then glue all the squares together.



6. (Optional step!) Once the glue is dry, carefully peel the top layer of cardboard from one side of your stamps to reveal the striped, corrugated layer underneath. This will create a fun texture for you to use when you start printing.



7. Put some paint on your plate or palette, spread it out with a brush, and then pick a stamp you want to start printing with. For a tree, we'll start with the triangle

shape. Dip one side of the stamp into the paint, and make sure it's completely covered.



8. Now you get to create with your shapes! To make a tree, use the triangle stamp to make the branches, carefully pressing the paint-covered stamp onto the paper, and then use the square or rectangle to make the trunk.

You could also make a flower, a landscape scene, an abstract pattern — anything you want! Try rotating the shapes to create a checkered pattern, or add texture by using both the solid and corrugated sides of your stamps.



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