

A decorative banner for 'Creative Chase' featuring various art supplies like pencils, pens, brushes, and paint palettes. The text 'CREATIVE CHASE' is centered in a blue box.

CREATIVE CHASE

Creativity in the Classroom

KS2 Printmaking, colour and collage

About this Unit

Pupils will engage deeply with **colour theory, printmaking, and collage techniques**, focusing on how artists use a limited colour palette and varied textures to convey mood and pattern. The unit explores the relationships within the colour wheel and encourages experimentation with layering and repeat patterns. Nature and seasonal themes guide observational drawing and creative print and collage projects, allowing pupils to develop mastery of art and design techniques linked to KS2 curriculum aims.

National Curriculum Links

- Develop mastery of painting and printing techniques including layering and colour mixing.
- Use a range of materials creatively to design and make products.
- Extend understanding of pattern, texture, colour, and shape through collage and printmaking.
- Learn about great artists, craft makers, and designers, and make links between their work and pupils' own projects.
- Record ideas, observations, and insights in sketchbooks to develop and refine creative work

Artist Inspiration:

Rob Ryan: Papercut art emphasising fine detail and two-colour contrasts.

Mark Heald: Rich collage and colour layering inspired by nature and landscape.

James Green: Printmaker specializing in intricate natural patterns.

Andy Warhol: Pop art pioneer known for repeat prints and bold colour use.

Theme

Nature and seasons, including plants, flowers (potted and wild), trees, wildlife, countryside, garden items, and landscapes such as local allotments or Cannock Chase.

Tools and Materials

Drawing & Transfer: Pencil, carbon paper, biros.

Printmaking: monoprint acrylic sheets, rollers, water-based ink, ink trays, newspaper.

Mark Making & Colour: Oil pastels, Sharpie or acrylic pens.

Cutting & Collage: Scissors, masking tape, glue sticks.

Papers: Coloured paper, tissue paper, brown card, magazines, patterned papers, recycled packaging.

Large-format paper for printmaking.

Resources/Imagery/Links

Visual Inspiration:

- Visuals of local natural scenes and seasonal changes.
- Artist examples showing papercut, collage, and printing techniques.
- Step-by-step guides/worksheets for mono-printing, foam tile engraving, and two-colour papercuts.
- Digital mood boards containing artist work and nature photography.
- Classroom displays for ongoing inspiration and technique reminders.

Implementation Tips:

- Encourage thorough use of sketchbooks for observational drawing and planning print/collage designs.
- Scaffold printmaking skills progressively; model safe ink rolling and pressure application.
- Promote experimentation with limited palettes to develop colour confidence, linking directly to colour theory lessons.
- Use paired work during printing sessions for peer assistance and discussion.
- Support differentiation by offering templates and alternative drawing methods alongside freehand options for print designs.
- Encourage reflection through peer assessment or class gallery discussions using artist vocabulary (e.g., pattern, repeat, relief, layering).

Techniques/Process

- **Line Drawing & Transfer:** Observational sketches transferred with carbon paper to Safeprint tiles.
- **Mono-printing:** Applying ink to acrylic sheets and pressing to paper for unique prints.
- **Papercut:** Using two-colour layering and cutting to mimic Rob Ryan's intricate style.
- **Collage:** Building textured compositions with recycled, patterned, and coloured papers inspired by Mark Hearld.
- **Colour Theory Exploration:** Use of colour wheel knowledge to guide palette choices and mood creation.

Weekly Lesson Plan

Week 1: Observational Drawing and Colour Exploration

Learning Focus: Sketching from nature and understanding limited colour palettes

Activities:

- Study images of plants, wildlife, and local scenery.
- Pupils create sketches using pencils, coloured pencils, and pens on A5 or combined sheets.
- Begin colour wheel discussions and apply colour in sketches.

Differentiation: Provide tracing options and colour swatches for palette support

Assessment: Review sketchbook variety, use of colour, and accurate observation.

Week 2: Relief Printmaking from Observational Drawings

Learning Focus: Translating previous observational drawings into relief prints using Safeprint (polystyrene) tiles and exploring repeat patterns/printing techniques.

Activities:

- Pupils select a favourite drawing from Week 1 or combine elements from multiple sketches.
- Using a biro, they draw the design onto an A5-sized Safeprint tile, adding details and texture lines (remind pupils not to press all the way through the polystyrene). Alternatively, pupils can use carbon paper to transfer their drawing before engraving further.
- Set up the room with printmaking trays: each group accesses water-based ink, ink trays, and two rollers (one for inking, one for pressing the print).
- Pupils ink their tiles and create repeat prints onto large A3 paper, working in pairs if necessary for support.
- Optional: add radial tissue paper to the A3 paper as a background, then print over it for layered effects and colour interaction experimentation.

Differentiation: Provide pre-traced templates or allow carbon paper transfers for those who need fine motor support. Stretch confident pupils by encouraging multi-image collage or complex detail engraving.

Assessment: Review clarity of print, successful transfer of design, and experimentation with repeat patterns and colour layering. Observe responsible tool use and collaborative support in pairs.

Week 3: Rob Ryan Inspired Papercut Art

Learning Focus: Exploring two-colour contrast and delicate shape cutting

Activities:

- Introduce Rob Ryan's papercuts.
- Pupils create two-colour layered papercuts on A4, focusing on simple shapes such as flowers or leaves.
- Begin with a coloured background, add cut shapes to create positive and negative spaces, emphasising veins and details.

Differentiation: Offer pre-sketch templates or outline guides. Challenge confident pupils to create intricate details.

Assessment: Assess precision in cutting, composition balance, and effective use of colour contrast.

Week 4: Nature Collage with Recycled Materials

Learning Focus: Building large collages with varied textures and colours, inspired by Mark Hearld.

Activities:

- Collect magazine images, patterned paper, and recycled packaging to cut out flowers, plants, and nature-related objects.
- Create collage rows or compositions without prior drawing to explore direct composition.
- Pupils experiment with wax crayons and pens on scrap papers to prepare collage materials.

Differentiation: Provide cutting aides and triage between simple and complex collage elements.

Assessment: Observe creativity, layering, and use of colour/texture materials.

Week 5: Collage Illustration Development

Learning Focus: Planning and layering collaged details over drawn compositions.

Activities:

- Pupils sketch nature-inspired illustrations based on observational studies and Mark Hearld's compositional style.
- Begin adding collaged papers, layering colour, pattern, and texture gradually with glue sticks.

Differentiation: Scaffold layout planning with templates or grid guides. Encourage personal interpretation and detail for advanced pupils.

Assessment: Review sketch-to-collage progression, layering skills, and compositional thought.

Week 6: Finalising Large-Scale Collage Work and Reflection

Learning Focus: Completing collage artworks and reflecting on creative choices.

Activities:

- Continue building collage layers.
- Use fine black liners to trace details or outlines or experiment by layering acetate with drawing on top for mixed media effect.
- Instigate a Class gallery walk and critiquing session focusing on use of colour, pattern repetition, texture, and connection to artists studied.

Differentiation: Provide support drawing acetate overlays. Encourage risk-taking with layering for confident pupils.

Assessment: Final artwork reviewed for technique mastery, creativity, and connection to theme and artist inspiration.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this 6-week unit, pupils will:

- Master printmaking techniques including relief printing using Safeprint tiles and mono-printing.
- Understand and apply colour theory, using limited palettes and layering to create mood and pattern.

- Develop precision and creativity in papercut art, exploring contrasts and fine detail.
- Create detailed collages inspired by natural themes, experimenting with layering paper to build texture and pattern.
- Make thoughtful connections to the work of Rob Ryan, Mark Hearld, James Green, and Andy Warhol.
- Use sketchbooks effectively for planning, experimenting, and reflecting on their creative processes.
- Communicate ideas visually with increasing confidence, linking technique to intention.