

## “Architectural Reflection Prints”



**Objective:** Create a series of prints to portray a famous architectural structure set within a fantasy cityscape.

### Materials

- Styrofoam printing plates (4"x6")
- Pens
- Watercolor Paint
- Watercolor Paper (9"x12")
- Brayers, Ink Trays and Printing Ink

### Motivation

- Introduce the lesson with an overview of architectural structures from around the world. The posted worksheet can be used as a guide for students' independent research about a particular structure.
- Consider creating a list of structures you would like students to choose from. Get started with [this list from AOE](#).

### Step 1: Paint Background Paper

Have students draw a horizon line on their watercolor paper and use different [watercolor techniques](#) to paint above and below the line to create sky and water spaces.

### Step 2: Sketch and Indent

Have students choose a structure and sketch it on their research worksheet. Then, have them transfer that sketch to the Styrofoam by taping the sketch to the Styrofoam and tracing over it with a pen. Have students add additional buildings or elements around the structure to fill in the extra space on the foam printing plate.

### Step 3: Ink and Print

Demonstrate how to ink and print the foam. Students should line up the foam on one side of the paper, print it and then immediately flip it downward to print a "reflection" print without re-inking. Continue this process until the entire span of the horizon line has been printed.

**Tip:** Cutting off the negative space around the structures before printing gives the prints a clean, clear look.

**Tip:** Suggest students create various backgrounds with the watercolor paint: night scenes, colorful sunsets, stormy skies, etc.

**Tip:** Encourage students to create multiple prints for reflection and process evaluation.