

“Panoramic Printmaking”



Objective: Create a linoleum block print at least 24” long, featuring a panoramic image that forms a quality composition. The print should include details and/or expressive marks that fill the entire page.

Materials

Standard Block Printmaking Materials

- Battleship Roll of Linoleum and Cutting Tools
- Utility Knife to Cut Linoleum
- Paper (long rolls or larger size paper)
- Printmaking Ink
- Brayers

Motivation

- If students work from photos or sketches they have taken themselves, the work will be much more meaningful.
- In addition, the challenge of a huge printmaking block will keep kids engaged and interested.

Step 1: Select a Quality Reference

As aforementioned, I ask students to use images they have photographed, observed, or drawn themselves. In my class, this is part of their summer homework, but it can serve as a standalone preparatory assignment as well.

Step 2: Draw, Cut and Motivate

Ideally, this project is done with advanced students who have some experience with printmaking. It takes a lot of time to draw, and even more time to carve the linoleum, so that is where the motivation aspect comes in. I’ve had this project drag on for three weeks--sometimes even longer--and it is difficult to keep kids working for that long, no matter how much they love the project. I guarantee, though, that if they give it their best effort they will undoubtedly be pleased with the results.

Step 3: Print!

The printing process is the same for a panoramic print as it is for any block print, with one major exception: we use two people. This keeps the ink from drying when on the block, and it is much easier to handle both the block and the paper with four hands instead of two. Make sure you have plenty of space to dry these huge prints!

Tip: Students should avoid having too much empty space in the prints. Consider adding texture, hatching, or other details to break up the space (van Gogh-esque swirls in an empty sky would be a good example of this type of addition).