

Block Printing

In Medieval China and Japan, block printing was developed as an efficient way to make multiple copies of books and other written materials, making communication and learning easier!

One thing to remember when you make your own block print is that letters and words must be written *backwards* in order to print the proper way.

Materials:

Carving block (included)

Soft-leaded pencil or charcoal pencil

Printing paper (included)

Coin

Tempera paint

Paper plate

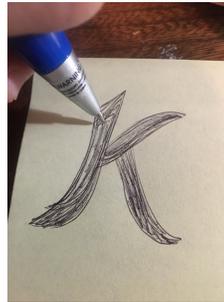
A small, pointed knife

A couple of flat screwdrivers (a small one and a larger one, if possible)

Start simple! Using just one letter (one of your initials, perhaps) is recommended.

Sketch or print out the letter you want to use. Make sure it's about the same size as your block print. Face it the right direction, and make the lines nice and thick. You don't want fine lines for this project.

With a soft-leaded pencil (or a charcoal pencil if you have one), color over the strokes of the letter. Be very generous--you want it to be "smudgeable."



Carefully turn your letter over so the side you just wrote on is down. Center it and lay it carefully on top of the carving block.

Press down and rub the non-printed side with a coin. The idea is to transfer the shape of the letter onto your carving block.



Remove the paper. You should now see the faint outline of your initial on the carving block. It will be facing backwards, but that's okay!



