



Trading Places: Relief Printing Alabama Places

Target grade: 5th

Length: 2 or 3- 30 minute sessions

Enduring Understanding: Artists experiment with forms, structures, materials, concepts, media, and artmaking approaches.

Essential Question: How does relief printing expand the creative process?



Objective: Students will use line, color, value, and printmaking techniques to depict an historical Alabama place or location of personal interest.

Arts discipline: Visual Arts

Standards:

Alabama Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Creating 3 - Communicate ideas and images of historical places and places of interest in Alabama through printmaking and utilizing elements of art (line, color, value) and principles of design (variety and unity).

Creating 5 - Identify, describe, and visually document places of personal significance

Non-arts discipline: Social studies and Alabama history

Standards:

SocSci. 5.1.1- locate the capitol of the state and important geographical features; identify major ports in the U.S. (Mobile)

SocSci. 5.12 – Identify sites important to the Civil War (confederate capital) and Alabama history

Materials and supplies:

- 2" x 3" drawing paper
- Pencils and erasers
- Images of historical places and places of interest in Alabama
- 2" x 3" Inovart Styrofoam plates – one per student
- Black water soluble printing ink
- Styrofoam trays or plates for ink
- Soft printmaking brayer
- Unlined index cards or 3" x 5" copy paper for printing
- Blank artist trading cards
- Watercolor pencils
- Small Watercolor brushes
- Rinsing containers with clean water
- Paper towels

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Prerequisite knowledge arts:

- know how to use a small amount of water to blend watercolor pencils
- introduction to relief printing

Prerequisite knowledge – non-arts:

- introduce historical places in Alabama, such as those related to the Civil War & the modern Civil Rights Movement
- discuss important geographical features in Alabama including major ports, rivers, mountains, etc.
- **Arts vocabulary addressed:**
line, color, value, relief print, landscape, background, foreground, pattern, variety, unity, negative & positive space

Non-arts vocabulary addressed:

geographical features, Alabama Bicentennial (on Dec. 14, 1819, Alabama became the 22nd state in the U.S.), Civil War, Confederate capital; modern Civil Rights Movement

Introduction:

Discuss artist trading cards and the *Trading Places* project in relation to the 2017 Alabama Bicentennial theme of Places.

Sequence of activities:

1. Look at images of historical Alabama places, important locations and geographical features in your area.
2. Make a preliminary drawing on 2" x 3" paper of an historical or important place in the area.
3. Make a relief print by lightly holding the drawing on top of an Inovart Styrofoam plate of the same size and tracing over the drawing with a pencil. Take off the preliminary drawing and trace over the lines on the foam plate with a pencil.
4. Spread a **SMALL** amount of black ink (the size of a fingertip) evenly on a Styrofoam plate or tray, using a brayer.
5. Using the brayer, spread black ink evenly over the relief drawing on the foam plate. Cover the entire surface of the plate with the ink.
6. Press the inked image onto a blank index card or copy paper to make a print. Use your fingers to rub over the back of the foam plate to create a more distinct printed image.
7. While the print is drying, create a background on a trading card using watercolor pencils. Make landscapes or patterns using a variety of colors and values. Create different values with the watercolor pencils by coloring lightly or more densely on the trading card.
8. Blend the watercolor pencil background using a small amount of water and a small sized watercolor brush. Try dipping the watercolor pencils in water and drawing back into the image to create lines and darker values of a color.
9. When the trading card and the print are dry, cut around the printed image to create an interesting shape and glue the printed image to the card.
10. Fill out a name label and glue it to the back of the trading card.

Fun Variations to Try:

- Print directly on a trading card. Use a damp trading card to create a different effect.
- Paint black ink on only part of your design on the foam plate. After printing the image (positive spaces) on a trading card, add color to the negative spaces with watercolor pencils.
- Create a border around the trading card using water soluble markers or watercolor pencils. Blend if desired with water on a small brush.
- Use watercolors or acrylic paint on the foam plate and then print on a trading card.
- Consult the online Encyclopedia of Alabama for more content.

