

## WonderFoam Collagraph Prints

WonderFoam is familiar to almost everyone who has ever presented a craft project to children — but, if you'd like to move beyond the "foamies" to a real art technique, incorporate WonderFoam into printmaking!

"Collagraph" is a printing process in which materials are arranged collage-style on a rigid surface, coated with ink and then transferred to paper.

WonderFoam is available in pre-cut shapes with adhesive on the back. Simply arrange the forms on a small, low-cost canvas panel, brush them with tempera paint, turn them over and stamp. Students learn to make repeating patterns with shapes. Older ages learn to make a symmetrical pattern.

**Grade Levels** preK-6

*Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 25 students. Adjust them as needed.*

### Preparation

1. With grades 3 and up, discuss symmetry and pattern repetition prior to placing the forms.
2. Using a ruler, draw lines on the canvas from corner to corner, intersecting at the center of the panel. This will help students arrange the pieces in a symmetrical order.

### Process

1. Peel and stick the WonderFoam shapes onto the canvas panel. Press them firmly into place.
2. Pour tempera colors into small paint cups.
3. With a small foam brush, use a dabbing motion to apply a thick layer of tempera paint over the surface of the shapes. Try not to get much paint on the canvas panel.
4. Position the paint side down on a piece of construction paper and apply pressure. Use the palm of the hand and be careful



### Materials

**Creativity Street® WonderFoam Peel & Stick**, either assorted shapes package of 720 (61731-1010) or 9" x 12" sheets, package of 20 (61731-1023); share among the class

**Blick® Economy Canvas Panel Classroom Pack**, 4" x 4", pack of 24 (07015-1044); one per student

**Blick® Premium Grade Tempera**, 8-oz, assorted colors (00011-); share four to five colors among the class

**Blick® Construction Paper**, 9" x 12", assorted colors (11409-); one sheet per student

**Foam Brush**, 1" (05114-1001); one per student

**Richeson® Disposable Paint Cups**, package of 100 (03317-0100); share among the class



### Process, continued

not to move the canvas and smear the pattern.

- Pick up the canvas panel by the edges, lifting it straight up and away from the paper.
- Apply more paint to the forms and repeat the process, or clean the forms and change colors.
- To clean the forms, stamp them on a paper towel and then on a wet sponge to remove any excess paint. The canvas panel will absorb water, so don't soak it or place it in the sink. Dry the forms with paper towels and repeat the printing process.

### Options

- Use multiple colors of paint either carefully placed on each form or brushed over the entire surface.
- Plan to repeat the pattern over and over on the same piece of paper. Make the first print in the corner. Position the second print right next to it and so on.
- Have students cut out their own shapes from 9" x 12" sheets of WonderFoam Peel & Stick.

### National Standards for Visual Arts Education

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes.

**K-4** Students know the differences between materials, techniques and processes.

**5-8** Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas.

Content Standard #2 Using knowledge of structures and functions.

**K-4** Students describe how different expressive features and organizational principles cause different responses.

**5-8** Students select and use the qualities of structures and functions of art to improve communication of their ideas.



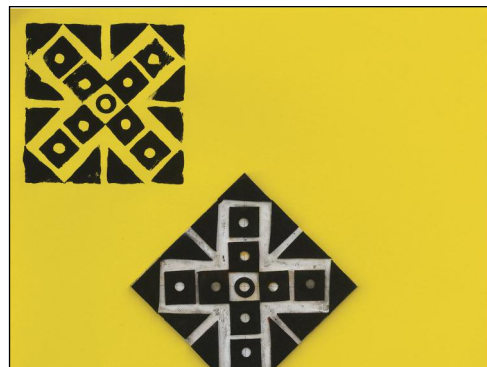
**Step 1:** Apply WonderFoam Peel & Stick shapes to a small canvas panel to make a pattern.



**Step 2:** Brush tempera paint over the foam shapes.



**Step 3:** Turn the panel over and press it down on construction paper to make a print.



**Step 4:** Repeat the process to fill the paper with a series of patterns.