



Japanese Wood Block Prints Submitted By Leslie Burnham For Grades 5 and 6

Purpose:

This lesson is designed to expose students to Japanese history, culture and art and help them explore the possibilities of printmaking as a medium in art.

Essential Questions:

What makes the Japanese separate and unique from other Asian cultures?
When did the Japanese develop woodblock printmaking and what was the purpose of this art form?

Objectives:

- Be able to identify the four islands of Japan.
- Learn the ancient history of Japan and discover when woodblock printmaking was developed.
- Learn and complete the steps to create a woodblock print.
- Learn about reverse imaging and be able to demonstrate understanding when printing.
- Create three cardboard blocks to make prints from.
- Make a series of prints from the cardboard block.
- Mount a print.

Target Grade Level:

This lesson is easily used with older grades using different tools and blocks. Older students can create more complex designs.

Standards:

- Perceives line; identifies direction of lines.
- Perceives shape; differentiates between contour of shape and surface decoration, identifies overlapping shapes.
- Perceives space; suggests depth by overlapping, identifies positive and negative space.
- Drawing; makes a contour drawing.

- Printmaking; prints in overlapping patterns and designs an image that is correctly reversed in printing.
- Design and Composition; uses repetition in line, shape, color and texture in design
- Presentation; Frames with paper.
- Art Awareness; looks at art in the classroom, names and describes subjects, objects and elements in compositions, compares works of art by historical artists and chooses a preference with explanation.
- Art History; becomes aware of cultural origins of art.

Materials Needed:

- Power point presentation about Japan, it's history, culture and art including a presentation on woodblock printing to show method and results
- Drawing paper
- Pencils, erasers
- Tracing paper
- Three sheets of cardboard per student, all the same size
- Scissors
- Glue
- Foam sheets, corrugated cardboard,
- Ink or paint
- Trays for printing ink
- Brayers
- Printing paper, four per student
- Mounting paper

Required Time for Project:

This project will require six class sessions to complete and mount a print.

Class 1: Show presentation on Japan and have students fill in a guided worksheet to keep information about Japan and to understand the process of woodblock printmaking. Keep examples of less complex woodblock prints from Japan on board to use for ideas. Students sketch their own idea for a print on paper. Teach about reverse imaging. Assign students to finish their sketch ideas as homework. Save guided worksheets for later.

Class 2: Go over steps for printmaking process. Have print idea sketched out on paper. Help each student to see the different layers of their sketch that they will break down into 3 separate blocks, one for each color of the print. Teach about lining up of each layer for print making process. Transfer each layer of the sketch to tracing paper keeping the images lined up. Cut out the last background layer and glue on to first cardboard block.

Class 3: Students will work on printing the first layer of their print from the background block created the prior week, four prints in all. Teach students to label prints on the back in the order that they are printed. Students will have a choice of two separate colors for the background color. While some are printing, others will be working on tracing and cutting designs for the second, middle layer of their prints on a second piece of cardboard as their second block.

Class 4: Same schedule as class three, but working on printing the second layer and preparing the third block for printing the next week. Send first block home with students.

Class 5: Print third and final block to finish their prints. Students will complete a summary of Japan using their guided worksheets from the presentation. Send second block home with students.

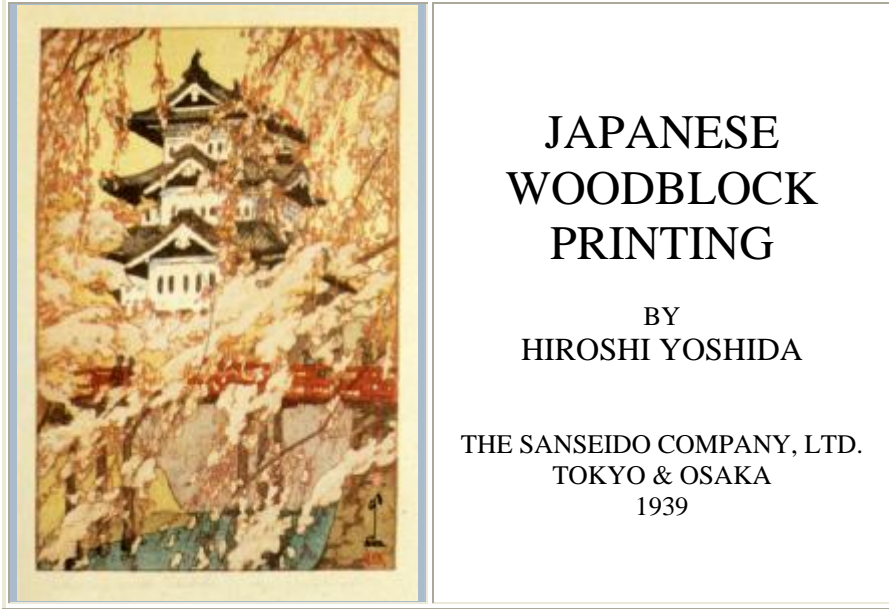
Class 6: Pick their best finished print to mount. Put art signature on each print and teach how to number the series of prints. Teach how to measure the print and background paper and figure out the margins to then measure. Mount one print. Take other prints home. Mounted prints will be displayed.

Assessment:

- Graded quiz on island identification, and woodblock printing process steps.
- Graded contour line drawing design for woodblock prints, showing an understanding of space and shape and line.
- Grade for each cardboard block.
- Grade for prints, showing an understanding of reverse printing and repetition in design and alignment of each cardboard block for prints.
- Grade for matted print in frame.

Teacher Resources:

Downloadable book no longer in print;



http://woodblock.com/encyclopedia/entries/011_07/011_07.html

Article about method of Japanese woodblock printing; http://www.asahi-net.or.jp/~xs3d-bull/how-to/mainichi_series_2.html

Article to make Layered Block Prints; [Make your Own Layered Block Prints](#), Christy Hale, Instructor Magazine, March/April 2007

[Introduction to Japanese History before the Meiji](#), Mitsusada Inoue, Kokusai Bunka Shinkokai, Tokyo, 1968

[An Illustrated History of Japanese Art](#), H. Mimamoto, K. Hoshino, Kyoto, 1935

[Art of Japan: Wood-Block Color Prints](#), Carol Finley, Lerner Publications Co., Minneapolis, 1998

[Modern Japanese Prints](#), Toledo Museum of Art, Roberts Printing Co., Toledo, Ohio, 1935