



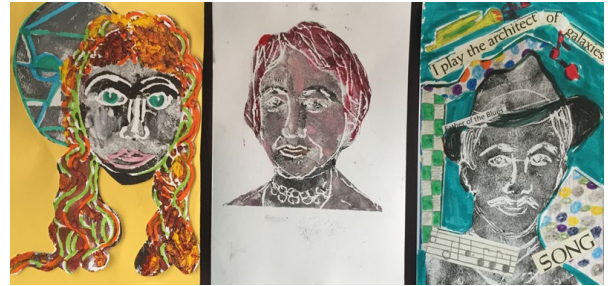
Faces of Alabama: Relief Monoprints

Target grade: 6th (adaptable to other grades)

Length: 2 - 45 minute sessions

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

Essential Question: How do printmaking techniques expand the creative process?



Objective: Students will use line, shape, color, patterns, collage, and relief printing techniques to create mini portraits of historical figures and people of personal interest.

Arts discipline: Visual Arts

Visual Arts: *Alabama Anchor Standard 11:* Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

Creating 2 – formulate an artistic investigation & discovery of relevant content for creating art.

Creating 3 – use elements of art (line, shape, color) & principles of design (patterns, variety) & various materials, methods, & approaches to create works of art.

Non-arts discipline: Social Studies, English Language Arts

Social Studies. 4. a, b, c, & d. identify notable people (writers, musicians, artists, inventors, etc.) during the Harlem Renaissance, the Jazz Age, and the early 1900s (Zora Neal Hurston, F. Scott & Zelda Fitzgerald, W.C. Handy, Erskine Hawkins, George W. Carver, Wilbur & Orville Wright, Helen Keller, Margaret Washington, Tuskegee Airmen)

Social Studies. 9. a, & b. – key figures in the modern Civil Rights Movement (Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, Fred Shuttlesworth, John Lewis); important artists since WWII (Hank Williams, J. Kelly Fitzpatrick, Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald)

English Language Arts – 22. – write informative or explanatory texts to convey ideas, concepts & content

English Language Arts – 35. – include multimedia components & visual displays to clarify information

Materials and supplies:

- Copies of a face template, with correct proportions already marked
- Images of well-known historical figures or people of personal interest
- Thin drawing paper (4" x 6")
- Unlined index cards (4" x 6") – 2 to 4 cards/student
- Pencils and thin sharpie markers
- Inovart Styrofoam sheets – 1 per student (or other found Styrofoam pieces)
- Black water soluble printing ink or acrylic paint
- Small to medium sized acrylic brushes
- Plastic plates for paint or ink
- Scissors
- Glue Sticks
- Colored and patterned paper, printed newspapers, magazines, poems, etc.

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This lesson plan was developed in 2018 by Donna Pickens and Tara Sartorius in connection with the Alabama Bicentennial Celebration.

Prerequisite knowledge arts:

- What is a portrait, basic understanding of printmaking, knowledge of proportions of the face

Prerequisite knowledge – non-arts:

- List important ideas, information, and symbolic associations related to the person portrayed

Arts vocabulary addressed:

line, color, shape; pattern, variety, negative & positive space; relief printing; symbol, collage

Non-arts vocabulary addressed:

biography, attribute, accomplishment, contribution, influence, context, Alabama Bicentennial (on Dec. 14, 1819, Alabama became the 22nd state in the U.S.), notable people & events of the early 1930s, modern Civil Rights Movement

Introduction:

Discuss the *Faces of Alabama* project in relation to the 2018 Alabama Bicentennial theme of “People”, sharing knowledge about historical & important people in Alabama. Tell the students that they will be creating relief monoprints of well-known historical figures or someone of personal interest in their life.

Student artworks from this project are displayed on our website at:

<https://www.alartsalliance.org/student-works-bicentennial-workshops>

Sequence of activities:

1. Using a template marked with correct facial proportions, draw a portrait of a well-known historical figure or someone of personal interest on 4”x6” thin drawing paper.
2. Place the drawing on top of a Styrofoam sheet of the same size and carefully trace over the drawing with a pencil. Take off the preliminary drawing and deepen the lines on the foam plate with a semi-sharp pencil.
3. Cut out the drawing that has been traced on the Styrofoam sheet.
4. Use brushes to spread a small amount of ink or paint on the cut-out Styrofoam sheet.
5. Turn the inked or painted image over and position it on a blank index card, and then turn them both over. Use your fingers to rub over the back of the card (now on top on the Styrofoam painted image) to create a distinct print. Print several more pieces, possibly changing colors and their placement.
6. While the prints are drying, cut out shapes from colored or patterned paper to add meaning and interest to the negative space around the printed image.
7. Select and cut out words and images from printed sources (newspapers, magazines, poems, etc.) that describe in some way the person portrayed (i.e. where they were from in Alabama, their vocation or what they were famous for, a personality trait, etc.)
8. Glue the shapes and words in the negative space around the printed image.
9. Draw other symbols (attributes) associated with the person portrayed (musical notes & instruments, books, paint & palette, peace symbols, stars, etc.) using fine tip markers.
10. On a second index card, write a paragraph describing the person portrayed in the portrait and why they have inspired you. Include your name, grade, and school on the card.
11. Put both cards (the printed portrait and the writing) together back to back in a plastic sleeve or glue them together.

Fun Variations to Try:

- Rub acrylic paint into the lines on the cut-out Styrofoam image, wipe off the surface and then print it on a damp, soft piece of paper (such as a plain paper towel). When the print is dry, cut out the image and glue it to a blank index card.
- Paste a section of an Alabama map, patterned or colored paper on the card before printing.
- Make 2 prints of the portrait overlapped on the same card without adding more ink, so that one image is lighter than the other.
- Use watercolors, tempera or acrylic paint to cover the index card; let this painting dry and then print the portrait.
- Consult the online Encyclopedia of Alabama for more content: <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org>

