

Gelli Printing: California Nature through Printmaking

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Grade Level: 4th through 6th Grade

Background Information: In the workshop, we will explore California history and natural resources combined with the technique of Gelli printing. The emphasis of the hands on workshop will offer experimentation of place and surroundings through demonstrated use of California plant life mixed with art mediums. The class will demonstrate the techniques of Gelli printing that can be modeled at any age or experience level. This art making experience will generate excitement and help teachers develop a level of passion in their students for creating through adventurous art making and happenstance.

Content Standards: 1.1, 1.2, 2.6, 2.7, 3.2

Learning Objectives: To explore California plants by identifying the different kinds of plants that will become the basis for the Gelli prints. To Create original artworks that incorporate the plants that grows around the students at the school.

Vocabulary: Printmaking, Experimentation, Brayers, Acrylic Paint

Materials: Gelli Printing Plates, Acrylic Paint, brayers, paper and plant materials.

Motivation: Students will gain a better understanding of California Nature by exploring and examining their surroundings and choosing plants to become the basis for their original artworks.

Procedure: Students will begin by walking around their school to explore what plants grow around their school. Students will then cut trimmings off of the plants to use in their artworks. Students will look through books on California plant life and try to identify the plants that they are using. If they are unable to locate the plants, they may ask the science teachers or gardeners for more information on the names of the plants which they will then research. Students will gather their plant materials and printing plate to begin the lesson on the techniques of Gelli Printing.

Students place a quarter size amount of acrylic paint on their Gelli Printing Plate and then using the brayer roll out a smooth layer.

Students then place the plants on the printing plate and begin to arrange a composition.

Students then take a piece of paper and lay it on to the plate and rub with the palm of their hands.

Students then remove the paper and have their first layer of the print.

Students then roll another color in the same manner as before onto the printing plate and repeat the process building up layers of color and textures through the use of plant materials.

Students may also experiment using other materials and textures as base layers before printing the plants for additional exciting results.

Assessment: Where students able to identify the plant materials they used in their artworks?

Where students able to create layers and textures in their artworks?

Did the students take risks and experiment with the materials?

Extensions: Students could go on a nature walk with their families around their neighborhoods to identify other plants than what they found at school. They could utilize those plants in future printing projects. They could work with the science teacher to help them identify the uniqueness of the plants that they locate.

