



Looking at stonecut prints

GRADES 4-6

With just a few colours, lines and shapes Pitseolak Ashoona and printmaker Eegyudluk Pootoogook have created a detailed image, *Winter Camp Scene*, which contains lots of expression and information.

Experiment with printmaking and learn more about Inuit culture with the following activities.

ART ACTIVITIES

Watch how stonecut prints are made

Watch [this video](#) by the National Film Board of Canada about printmaker and artist Andrew Qappik.

Create a drawing that's full of activity

Pitseolak Ashoona's *Winter Camp Scene* is full of action. Like a photograph, the people and animals are frozen in the activity they are doing. Create a drawing of your friends or family in action. Challenge yourself to create a drawing that could be translated to a print; focus on strong lines, shapes and only use a few colours.

Make a relief print

Cut the edges off a polystyrene tray to make a flat surface—this will be your printing block. Draw an image onto the surface of the tray using a blunt pencil. Press firmly so your pencil makes an indent in the foam. Your draw will be in reverse when printed. Once you have completed your design, use a paint roller or paintbrush to cover the polystyrene with a thin and even layer of acrylic or tempera paint. Make sure to work quickly as these paints dry fast. Place a piece of paper on top of the polystyrene and carefully rub all over the paper with your hand or the back of a spoon. Gently remove the paper to reveal your print.



Pitseolak Ashoona

Winter Camp Scene

1967, stonecut on paper, 9/50, printed by Eegyvudluk Pootoogook

Gift of John Robertson, 1985

(28-061)

If you'd like to extend the lesson beyond visual art, here are some other activities

Learn about traditional Inuit legends and storytelling

Watch episodes of Story of our Elders on [IsumaTV](#). Some episodes include [The Man with the Long Hair](#); [Tiggak, the Bear and the Snow Bunting](#) and [The Fox and the Rabbit](#).

Compare and contrast themes of artists' works

Pitseolak Ashoona's daughter Napachie Pootoogook and granddaughter Annie Pootoogook are also artists. All three artists have explored autobiographical subjects in their work, creating artworks that express their own experiences and life. On the internet, search for images of artworks by each artist. Compare and contrast them. Do their works explore similar subjects? What different aspects of life do they depict?

Observe, explore, then create

Explore a room in your house and make a list of the interesting lines, shapes and textures you see. Make rubbings to create samples of the textures. Place a piece of paper on top of something with an interesting texture (e.g. a basket, tiles, a wooden door, lace). While pressing the paper to the surface, take a blunt pencil and shade across the paper. You will notice the texture of the surface below starts to appear on the paper.

Next, using your list, texture samples and coloured pencils, create a unique art piece that represents your chosen room. It doesn't have to look exactly like the real room, but should be inspired by the lines, shapes and textures you first noticed.

GLOSSARY

Relief Printing: Ink is applied to the surface of a block or plate (areas that are recessed remain bare). It is then put into contact with a piece of paper and pressure is applied to transfer an impression of the surface onto the paper.

Stonecut printmaking: A type of relief printing similar to a woodcut or linocut. A smooth and level block of stone is carved to create the printing surface. This type of printmaking is used primarily by Inuit artists in northern Canada.