



Colorful Reduction  
**CLAY  
PRINTS**



## Lesson Plan Goals and Objectives

- Draw a design that transfers well to block printing.
- Study various printing methods and how they may transfer to ceramics.
- Learn how to make "printing ink" from underglaze.
- Learn how to ink a "printing plate" and apply to a tile.
- This lesson is suitable for grades 5-12.

## National Visual Art and Core Standards

- Apply media, techniques, and processes of ceramics.
- Students know and compare various printing methods in various eras and cultures.
- Students analyze what makes a good block printing design.

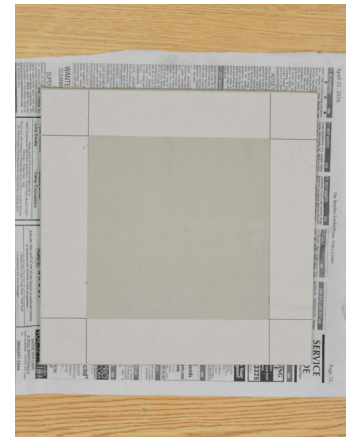
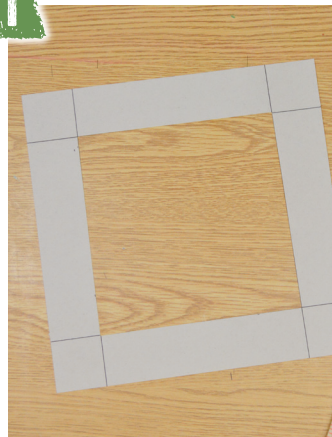


## Tools & Materials

- AMACO® 6" x 6" Glazed Tiles (113395)
- AMACO® Velvet Underglazes: Various Colors (reduced to 'ink' consistency)
- AMACO® Low Fire Glaze: LG-10 Clear Transparent (#39143R)
- Craft Knife
- Brayer
- 2mm Sticky-Back Craft Foam Sheet (one 6" x 6" square per student)
- Masking Tape
- Newsprint
- Drawing Materials
- Clay (Sample project done using AMACO 25-M White Art Clay)

## PROJECT STEPS

1



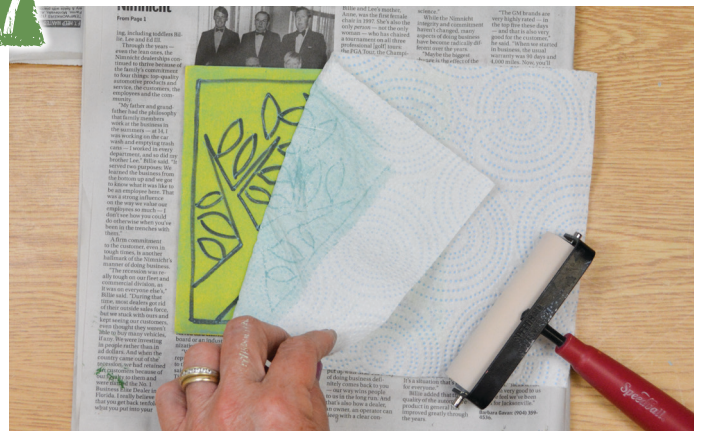
**PREPARE CLAY SLAB:** Cut a piece of newsprint with a 6" x 6" opening to register your print and the size border you prefer. We used a 1 1/2" border. Roll out a clay slab 9" x 9" and 1/4" + thick. Smooth both sides then place newsprint border over the slab.

4



**INK AND PRINT:** Place a glob of Velvet Underglaze "ink" on a flat surface and charge your brayer with "ink", then roll onto craft foam. Start with lightest value first (V-327 Turquoise Blue here).

7



**REMOVE EXCESS UNDERGLAZE "INK":** Do not wash the craft foam. Use a paper towel and brayer to absorb the excess ink.



2



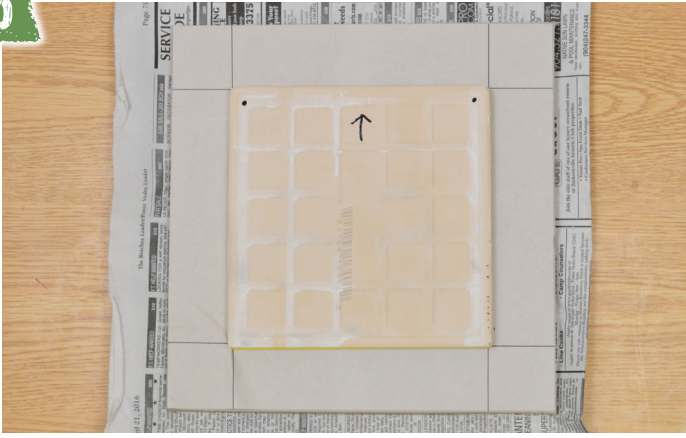
**PEEL AND STICK CRAFT FOAM:** Cut the sticky back foam into a 6" x 6" square then peel and stick it to the glazed tile.

3



**DRAW AND CUT DESIGN:** Draw your design on the craft foam. Cut on the lines with a craft knife, cutting through the craft foam to the glazed tile.

5



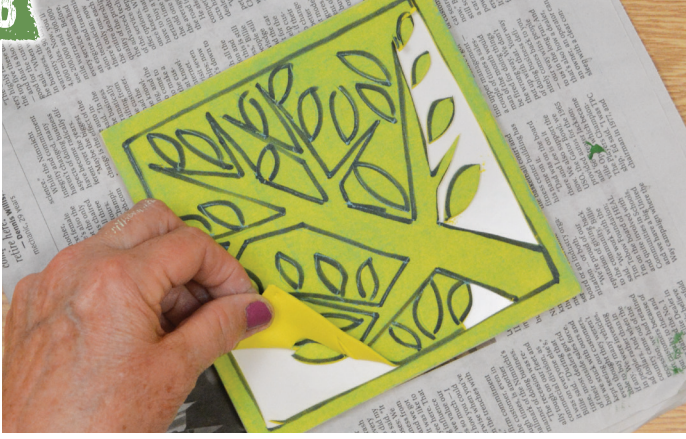
**PRESS ONTO CLAY SLAB:** Press inked craft foam onto clay slab. For better print, carefully flip over tile and slab then press clay onto tile firmly. Mark back of tile for correct registration.

6



**REMOVE THE TILE:** Remove the tile. The clay slab should now be printed with your first color.

8



**REMOVE PARTS THAT WILL REMAIN LIGHTEST VALUE:** Peel off foam sections that will not be printed again. In this example we printed the sky so the background will be removed.

9



**INK AND PRINT WITH SECOND COLOR:** "Ink" up your printing plate with the second color and apply to clay slab as before. In this example V-343 Chartreuse was used.



10



**REMOVE PARTS THAT WILL REMAIN SECOND COLOR:** Peel off all parts you wish to remain the second color. Charge your printing plate with your third color (V-353 Dark Green here) and apply to clay slab.



11



**REMOVING EXTRA UNDERGLAZE:** Use a cotton swab to easily remove excess underglaze on the clay slab.

12



**INK AND PRINT LAST COLOR:** Remove all parts you wish to remain the third color (in this case the remaining leaves). Ink craft foam printing plate with last color (V-303 Terra Cotta here) and apply to clay slab.



13



**FINISH PROJECT WITH MORE PRINTS:** Remove the protective newsprint border. Cut scrap craft foam into shapes, ink and print the border. Bend border up to create a plate. Apply LG-10 Clear glaze to make dinnerware safe and fire to Cone 05.

## GLOSSARY

**Charge:** To 'ink-up' your brayer or printing plate.

**Glaze Fire:** To heat glaze materials at a temperature high enough to melt and form a glassy surface coating when cooled.

**Printing Plate:** Substrate on which an image is engraved or cut into. The image is transferred to ceramic using Velvet 'ink'.

**Velvet Underglaze 'Ink':** Velvet Underglazes left uncovered for a period of time so moisture evaporates until it is the consistency of printing ink. (Learn how to make your own Underglaze Ink at [https://www.amaco.com/clay\\_how\\_tos/226](https://www.amaco.com/clay_how_tos/226))

for more projects visit

[AMACOLessonPlans.com](http://AMACOLessonPlans.com)