



Topics: Art Techniques,
Hand-eye coordination,
Fine motor skills

Materials List

- ✓ Cardstock
- ✓ Stencil
- ✓ Stylus
- ✓ Light table or backlit window
- ✓ Wax paper (optional)

This activity can be used to support the teaching of:

- Experiment w/ forms, structures & materials (National Visual Arts Standards: Creating, Grades Pre K-12)



Stencil Embossing

Raising the Surface for Classy Effects



Stencil embossing produces beautiful, raised shapes that can be used for cards, scrap booking or any sort of class projects. Embossing is easy and all kids succeed.

To Do and Notice

1. Place the stencil on the light table and put the cardstock over the stencil. The outline of the desired stencil shape should be seen through the cardstock. (If using a backlit window and the design cannot be seen, try another window, with light coming in from outside.)
2. If using wax paper, rub the cardstock surface with the paper at this time. (Note: using the wax paper will make the surface more slippery and make embossing a bit easier.)
3. Trace the outside of the design with the stylus, just as if tracing with a pencil or pen.
4. When tracing is complete, lift the cardstock off the stencil and turn it over to reveal the raised, embossed design.
5. Use the design as desired in a card or other project.

The Content Behind the Activity

Adding relief design into an object has ancient roots, from striking design into metal to make coins to carving artists' names into clay pots for identification. After Gutenberg invented movable type in 1452, books printed onto paper became increasingly popular. Printing technology continued to develop and new techniques emerged for paper as an artistic medium, including methods for foiling and blind embossing. In blind embossing, no ink is used on the paper, so the image is seen in raised relief. Blind embossing is considered an elegant touch to any work in paper.

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=412 for more resources!)