



# Art Glass Printmaking

**GRADE:** 3-8

**TIME:** One 60-minute session

Frank Lloyd Wright's art glass designs play an integral role in his architecture and have themselves become iconic examples of American art and design. In this lesson, participants will study Wright's art glass designs and contrast designs with one of Wright's passions: Japanese woodblock prints. Then, participants will employ the medium of printmaking to create their own Wright-inspired art glass prints.

**INTEGRATED SUBJECTS:** Visual Arts, Math

## OBJECTIVES

### MATERIALS | RESOURCES

Pencil

Paper

Ruler

Black Marker

Scissors

Colored Markers

Styrofoam 2" squares (ideally repurposed;  
for an eco-friendly option, use half of  
an apple or pear)

Examples of Wright's art glass designs  
available at [teachingbydesign.org](http://teachingbydesign.org)

For this lesson, Wright's skylight at Unity  
Temple is particularly helpful because  
the same glass design is repeatedly  
rotated to create an intricate  
coffered skylight ceiling! In the lesson,  
students can rotate their stamp design to  
produce a similar effect.

Examples of Japanese woodblock prints  
(available at [www.artic.edu](http://www.artic.edu))

1. Explore Frank Lloyd Wright's art glass designs.
2. Explore Japanese woodblock prints and the concept of relief printmaking.
3. Use geometry, line, and color to create a unique work of art.

## ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. What role does geometry play in Wright's art glass designs?
2. What role does repetition play in design?
3. How are Wright's art glass designs and Japanese woodblock prints related?
4. What is the relationship between abstraction and subtraction?
5. How can printmaking be used to create unique works of art or intricate patterns?
6. What role does texture play in printmaking?

# LESSON PROCEDURE

## EXPLORE

- Introduce Frank Lloyd Wright’s work, highlighting Wright’s interest in nature and geometry.
- Share examples of Frank Lloyd Wright’s art glass designs and discuss how they are integrated into the overall design of the building. Introduce the terms “caming” and “ribbon windows.” When discussing ribbon windows, **have participants consider:** How does Wright’s use of repetition impact the building’s design? What role does geometry play in Wright’s art glass designs?
- Introduce relief printmaking (<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/special-topics-art-history/creating-conserving/printmaking/v/moma-relief-printmaking>) and woodblock prints. Emphasize repetition, or the production of multiple identical prints, as a key characteristic of printmaking. (Tip: To further reinforce this concept, introduce the term “edition” in printmaking and show students how printmakers sign and number prints.)
- Introduce Wright’s interest in Japanese woodblock prints. Share examples of Japanese woodblock prints (artists include Hokusai and Hiroshige) and discuss design elements such as line, shape, and color. **Have students consider:** Are there any repeated elements in the print?

## ENGAGE

- Explain how students will be engaging in the process of printmaking as they produce art glass prints.
- Challenge participants to use geometric shapes, negative space, and a limited color palette to create a Wright-inspired art glass design. Encourage participants to sketch multiple drafts and select one to refine further. **Have students consider:** Does my design have any repetition? How would this design look as a ribbon window?

## DESIGN

- Using a dull pencil, have participants sketch their design onto Styrofoam (or eco-friendly soft surface such as an apple). Tell students that they are creating relief prints: participants are carving or removing the Styrofoam to reveal their design.
- When the Styrofoam plate is complete, have participants use washable colored markers to quickly add color to their design.
- Have participants stamp their designs onto blank paper to produce a print.
- Have participants use a black marker and a ruler to draw “caming” for their art glass designs. The process can be repeated to produce a pattern or larger design.

## CRITIQUE & INTERPRET

- Allow time for all participants to share work.
- Ask participants to consider what role geometry plays in their art glass prints.
- Challenge participants to identify what design elements were used in their prints.