

Design your own fabric!!

It can be great fun to design your own fabric – plus, you will end up with a completely original piece. There are lots of different ways that you can design and print your own fabric, but here, I am going to show you some examples of printing with fruit and vegetables.

Requirements:

Fabric to print onto – a plain, light-coloured fabric is a good place to start, I used calico

Acrylic paints

Palette or similar to mix colours on and paint brush

Apron and protective covering for work area

Selection of fruit and / or vegetables

Before you start:

Painting and printing can be a messy activity – make sure your clothes are protected and that the area you are working on is covered with newspaper or plastic before you start.

Once you have used fruit or vegetables for printing you WILL NOT be able to eat them – so get permission from whoever does the shopping / cooking in your house before you use anything – you do not want to be printing with tonight's tea!!

Ask for an adult's help with cutting fruit and vegetables.

Method:

There is no right or wrong way to do this – it is a good idea to try things out and see what you like. The basic method is below.

- (1) Choose your fruit and vegetables to use for printing. Cut them in half so you get an interesting 'cross-section'. If you use potatoes, you can carve a pattern into them.
- (2) Iron your fabric and put it onto your protected work surface.
- (3) Put some paint onto your palette and spread it out. Dip the cut side of the fruit or vegetable into the paint, so it is lightly covered and print onto your fabric.
- (4) See what patterns and effects you can make – it's as easy as that!!
- (5) When the fabric is completely dry (leave overnight), iron it on the back and it is ready to use. Acrylic paints may make your fabric a little stiffer than normal but it is fine to use. I wouldn't recommend washing it though, so think about that before you use it in a project.

Look over the page for some of the prints I made – then use your imagination – your design is up to you.

Examples:



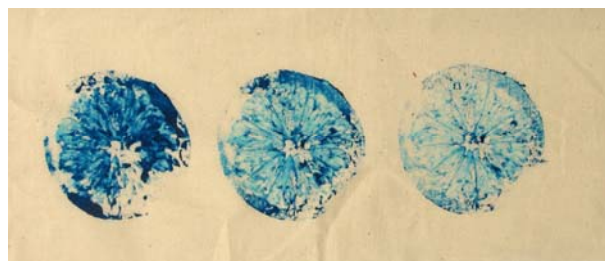
I used a green pepper and a lemon to do my prints.

I used three colours – red, blue and yellow.

First I used one colour for each item and spread the prints out.

Can you see that with the lemon print I dipped the lemon in the blue paint once, and then did three prints? – They get lighter across the fabric.

With the pepper, I dipped it in the paint before every print, so each print is the same strength.



I then tried using different colours and over-lapped my prints.

With the peppers, I waited for the red paint to dry before using the blue.

With the lemons, I printed in yellow, and then added the blue straight away – can you see that this gives a green where the colours meet?



Now – see what you can do!! Just remember to read the ‘before you start’ section on the first page, and ask for an adult’s help if you’re unsure about anything.