

LEARN how to make a gelatin printing plate and use it to create a one-of-a-kind monoprint.

GATHER your art supplies:

- 4 packs of unflavored gelatin (1 oz. total)
- Water
- Shallow, flat baking dish or container, approximately 6 x 6 inches
- Water-based block printing ink (or acrylic paint or tempera paint)
- Brayers if using ink (or paint brushes if using paint)
- Paper that is as large or larger than your container

CREATE your own monoprint! Follow along with the video tutorial at tennesseecraft.org/kids.

Step 1: Combine 1/2 cup of cold water and 4 packs of unflavored gelatin in the container.

Step 2: Pour 1/4 cup of hot water into gelatin mixture, stirring quickly to dissolve any gelatin lumps, then place container in refrigerator for at least two hours.

Step 3: Remove container from the refrigerator, and remove gelatin from container. You can now use the gelatin as a monoprint-making plate.

Step 4: Apply ink or paint in your desired design.

Step 5: When you are finished with your design, press a piece of paper carefully onto your gelatin plate, rub the paper with your hands to transfer the ink or paint from the plate to the paper, then peel off the paper.

Step 6: Tada! Your design has lifted off your gelatin plate and been applied to your paper. You have made a one-of-a-kind print. Clean off your plate with water and make some more! You can store the printing plate in the refrigerator when you're not using it, and it should last for about a week.

SHARE your artwork with friends and family on Facebook and Instagram using the hashtag #tncraftkids!



Hatch Show Print is one of the oldest working letterpress shops in America. Letterpress is a style of printing where letters (we call them type) and carved images are pressed onto paper with ink in between. The shop has been making posters this way since 1879 and has printed for country music stars, rock & roll musicians, and many others. The shop motto is "Preservation through Production," as they preserve the craft of letterpress printing by producing new posters for everyone from Dolly Parton to Beyonce.



Tip: Don't be afraid to experiment with non-traditional printing items while creating your monoprints! Bubble wrap, yarn, stamps, and other items can create fun textures in your monoprint – try applying a layer of ink or paint to the printing plate, and then pressing a clean item, such as a rubber stamp, into the inked plate. Then use a piece of paper to produce the monoprint.