

MAKER ED PRESENTS

# LEARNING IN THE MAKING

## HOW TO MAKE STAMPS & PATTERNS

### INTRODUCTION

Patterns are all around us. Some are found in nature. Some are made by people. A pattern is a repeated decorative design. Patterns can tell stories and be used as a way of communicating. Since patterns repeat over and over again, it could be useful to have a tool that helps you easily recreate the same shape or image. That's where stamps come in! A stamp is a tool that has an image on one end and a handle, or something to hold, on the other. The image on a stamp is not flat, but raised up. When you dip the image of the stamp into ink or paint and press it against a piece of paper, your image is transferred over. Patterns can be drawn out, but that would take a lot of time. Stamps give us a chance to play with making patterns.

On your next adventure outside, look at how the leaves grow on branches, the leaves themselves, the clouds in the sky -- you'll see patterns everywhere.

**If you were a pattern, which pattern would you be?**

### IN THIS ACTIVITY YOU WILL:

- ❑ Collect found materials to create stamps.
- ❑ Design patterns, using your stamps.



### Tools & Materials of Making

Get creative and use whatever materials you have available.

Here are some suggestions to start with:

- **Stamp Materials:** Cork, straws, buttons, beads, cups, pipe cleaner, popsicle sticks, and anything with an interesting shape or texture.
- **Base Materials:** Cardboard pieces, straws, cork, rubberbands, and glue.
- **Tools:** Scissors, Pens, Pencils, Markers, Paper



### Subject

Design  
Art



### Studio Habits of Mind Framework:

-Stretch & Explore  
-Engage & Persist

<https://www.teachingchannel.com/blog/habits-artists>



### Grades

K-2nd  
3-5th  
6-8th  
9-12th



### Key Terms

Stamp  
Pattern  
Repetition  
Symbol



Watch the video here:

[https://bit.ly/Stamps\\_Patterns](https://bit.ly/Stamps_Patterns)

# ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

## 1. GATHER MATERIALS

In order to make your stamp, you need to find some materials around that have interesting shapes and textures. Materials like beads, buttons, blocks, straws, and popsicle sticks are great. Almost anything can be made into a stamp.

**HINT:** You want to use materials that will stick out from the base.

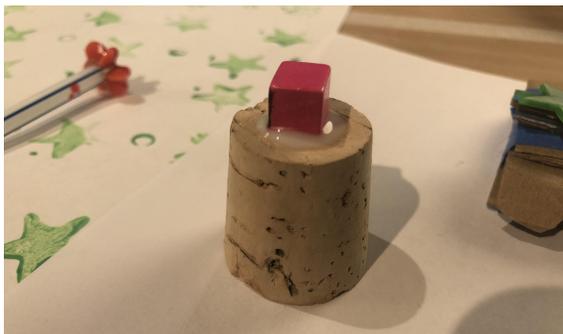


## 2. CONSTRUCT THE BASE OF YOUR STAMP

Your stamp will need support. You can create a base by stacking pieces of cardboard and gluing or taping them together. If you don't have cardboard, you can use other found objects like cork or straws. Your nearest recycling bin might have some great resources to make a base.

## 3. ADD YOUR STAMP IMAGE

What cool shaped objects have you gathered? Choose one and glue it onto the base you made in step 2. Remember to let it dry. Now you have a stamp!



## 4. DESIGN A PATTERN

Now that you have a stamp, or maybe even a few stamps, use them to create patterns.

To use your stamp, dip your stamp into ink or paint and then press it down onto the paper.

Now repeat your design over and over again, that's called **repetition**. You've just made a pattern!



### PATTERN FACT:

Natural patterns form as wind blows sand in the dunes of the Namib Desert. The crescent shaped dunes and the ripples on their surfaces repeat wherever there are suitable conditions.



### PATTERN FACT:

Patterns of the veiled chameleon, *Chamaeleo calyptratus*, provide camouflage and signal mood as well as breeding condition.



## REFLECT



- Patterns can communicate what we are feeling or thinking. Can you create a pattern that communicates how this year has felt for you? How can you use shapes and symbols to communicate your experiences?



Created in collaboration with:  
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For more resources, visit us:  
[makered.org](http://makered.org)



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