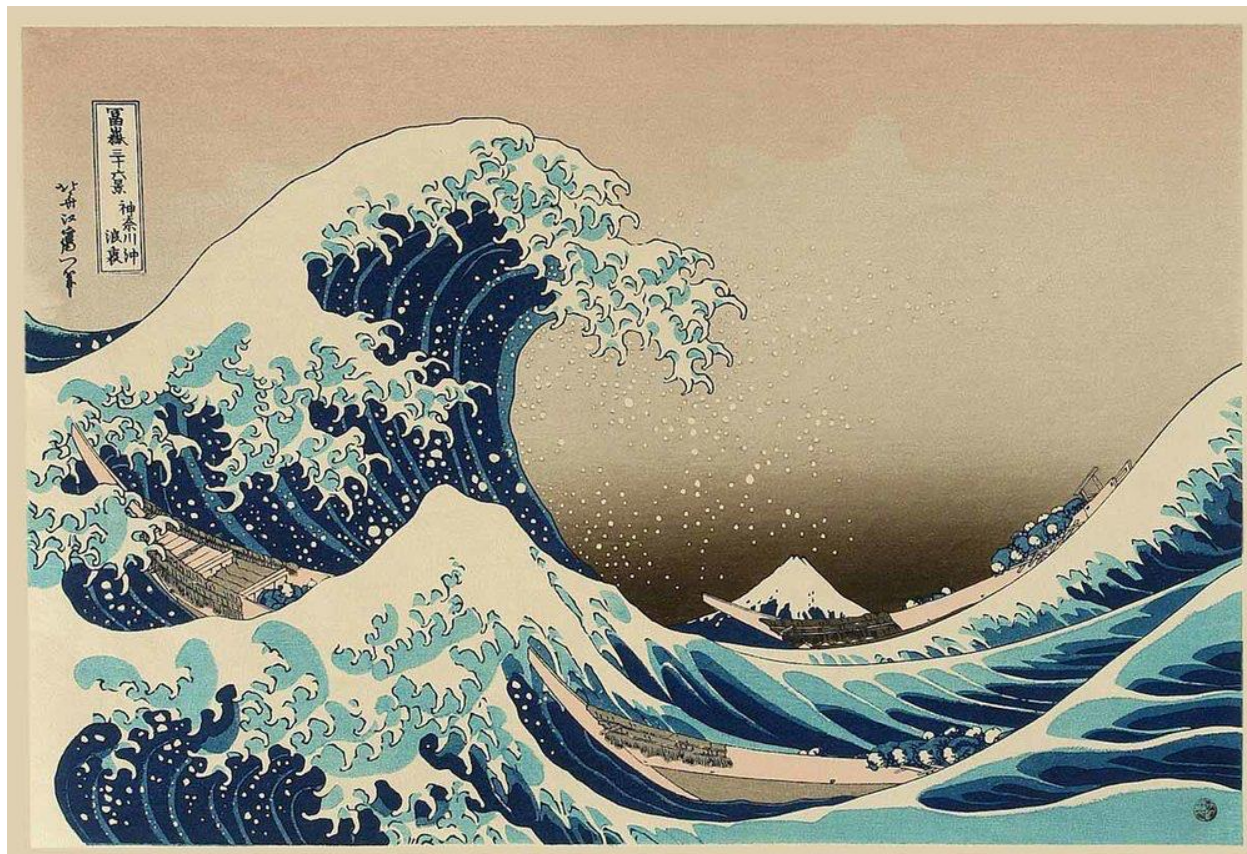


Week 7

Katsushika Hokusai 1760-1849 Japan

Woodblock Printing



This famous print by **Katsushika Hokusai** is called **The Great Wave**.

It was produced almost **200 years ago**.

It is probably the most famous and well recognised pieces of Japanese art ever made.

It shows boats being tossed about on an enormous wave with Mount Fuji in the background.

Because it is a print there were several copies made and it can be seen in galleries and museums all over the world.

This week you will need.....

From your Art Bag	From Home	For the extra activity
Sketchbook Paint Paper plate palette Cardboard String Glue & Cocktail stick Polystyrene tile Coloured pencil Sponges	Spoon for paint Something to cover your workspace Tissue to clean up with Things to print such as lids, toilet roll middles, a potato or celery stick or apple or anything you think you could print with Vegetable knife if you are using fruit & veg for your print.	Your ART BAG A plastic carrier bag or piece of cardboard like an old cereal packet.

About the artist.....

Hokusai began painting when he was 6 years old, at 12 he worked in a bookshop, he became an apprentice engraver at 16 and by the time he was 18 he was working with one of the most famous Japanese artists of the time.

He is most famous for a series of woodblock prints called '36 views of Mount Fuji'

The Great Wave is from this series.

He began these views when there was a travel boom in the area and also because of a personal obsession with the mountain. They were so successful that he ended up making another 10 so there are actually 46 views of Mount Fuji.

The different views show scenes from everyday life in 19th century Japan through different weather conditions and the changing seasons.

He shows us that while life moves on Mount Fuji stands still.

Activity 1 – Printing

In woodblock printing the design is carved from a block of wood which is then inked and printed. As this needs special tools and years of practise you are going to make a print in the style of the great wave on your polystyrene tile which is much easier.

Use a pencil or pen to practice drawing some waves in your sketchbook, when you are happy with your design then you can move onto the tile.

Make sure it is lying completely flat on the table, use a sharp coloured pencil to lightly draw your design onto the polystyrene. It doesn't matter what colour the pencil is you are using it as your engraving tool. Very slowly and carefully go over your design so you make deep grooves in the tile but don't press so hard that you go right through it. This is your printing block.

You need a flat surface to print on, you can print straight into your sketchbook or print onto a piece of white card and stick it in your book later when it's dry.

Put a small amount of blue or black paint onto your palette.

You need one of your sponges to apply the paint, hold the green scratchy bit and dip the soft spongy bit into the paint. **BEFORE YOU PUT IT ON YOUR TILE** you must dap the sponge around the palette to spread the paint out evenly across the surface, too much paint will spoil the print.

Next gently dab the paint all over your printing block, you should cover the whole tile but the paint shouldn't be filling the grooves you have carved.

As soon as you have covered the tile evenly turn it upside down and press it onto a clean flat page in your sketchbook.

Press it down firmly with the palm of your hand, make sure you press all over but don't thump it or poke it or it will smudge.

Then lift up your tile and you should have a great wave print!

If it's blotchy and smudgy you have used too much paint, carefully clean your tile and try again.

If you can hardly see it at all you haven't used enough paint or worked too slowly so the paint dried before you printed so add some more paint and try again.

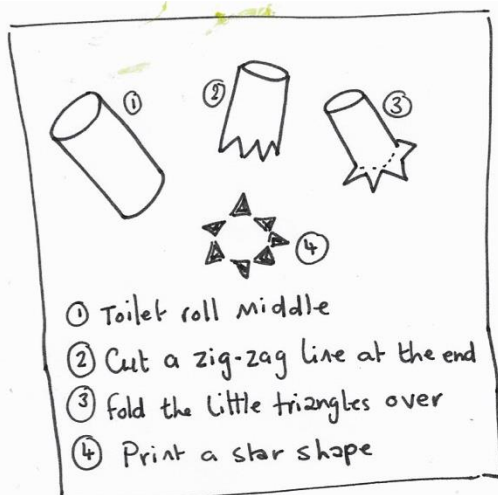


Activity 2 – More printing

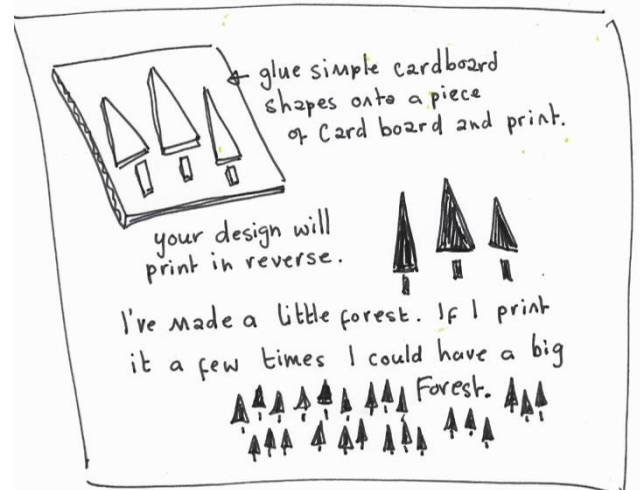
Now you are going to print with things you should have lying around the house, or just use the string, cardboard and lids in your ART BAG.

If you like you can use fruit and vegetables to print with, you don't need to waste food but one small potato and a stick of celery can make lots of great printing shapes, or just a slice from an apple or pear or one mushroom cut in half, these are just a few ideas, and you don't have to use them if you don't want to.

You can make a printing block with the cardboard that was protecting your polystyrene, cut out shapes from one piece of cardboard and glue them onto the other one. Or spread some glue onto a piece of card and spiral some string onto it. You must leave the glue to dry completely before printing and then cut off any extra cardboard around the edges.



Cut a zig-zag around the end of a toilet roll middle, then fold back the little triangles to make a star or flower shape.



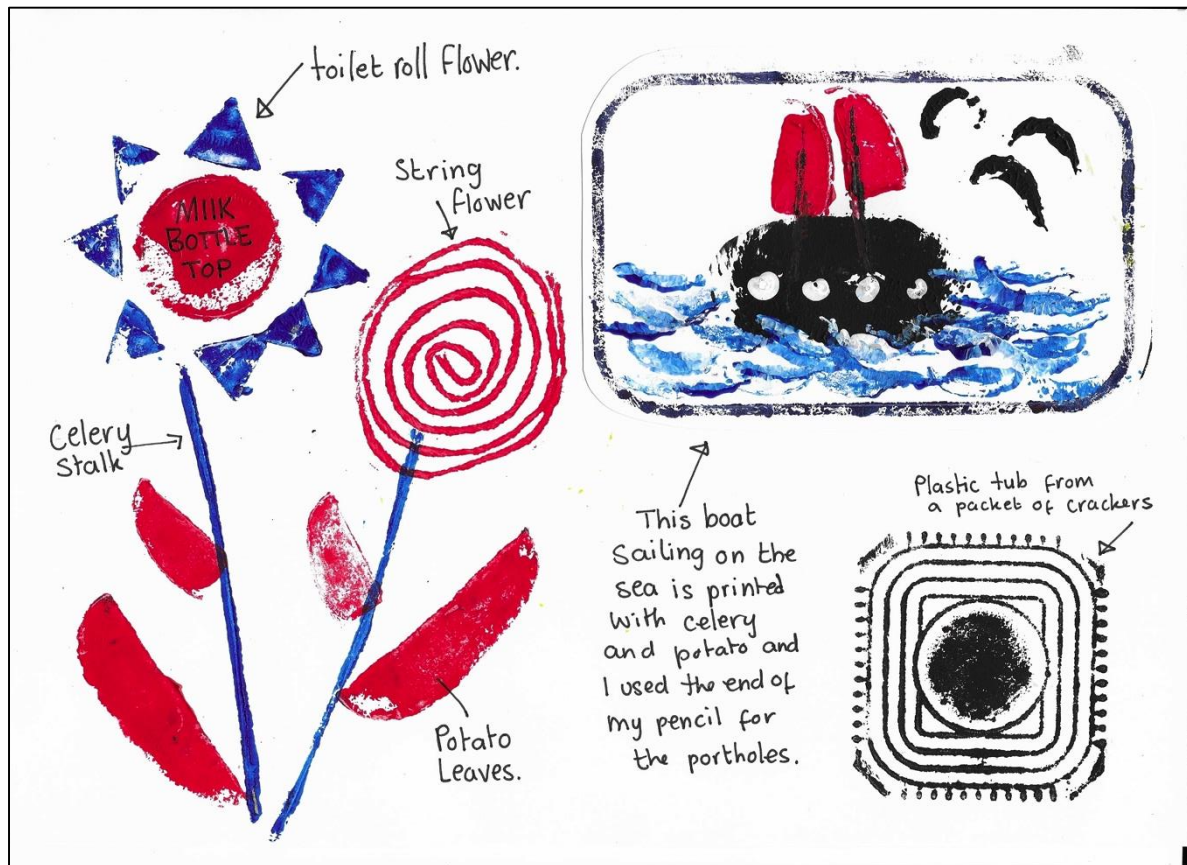
You can also print with the circle lids like you did in week one, or use the lid from a butter tub to make a frame around your print. Keep a look out for interesting packaging around crackers or biscuits.

There is an example on the next page.

When you are ready to paint use the same method you did for the polystyrene, dabbing the paint on evenly with the sponge. You can add white or black to your colours to create different shades and tones, you can also mix the colours onto your sponge.

Remember you only need a small amount of paint and make sure you save some for this week's extra activity.

You can add detail to any of your prints with a pen or pencil but you must wait till they are dry.



If you are enjoying Katsushika Hokusai then you can try this **extra activity**:

Print or paint your ART BAG.

The acrylic paint works well on fabric and is permanent so you can print your bag.

First put a plastic bag or a piece of cardboard inside your bag to stop the paint going right through to the other side.

Now print on your bag, use any of the printing techniques you have learnt.

If you prefer you could paint your bag in the style of any of the artists we have looked at, or in your own unique style.

I hope you have enjoyed your trip around the art world. Have a look through your sketchbook and see if you have anything to finish off, you could add comments and notes to your pages.

And remember we are planning to collect your sketchbooks on either Wednesday 29th or Thursday 30th July, if you are going out please leave them in a safe place and let us know by calling Alison on 07528 159283 They will be returned to you later.