Make a Masterpiece

Subtractive Paint Prints
with visual supports

What you need:

- A smooth surface – a tray, cookie sheet, place mat, upside-down pie plate, piece of cardboard wrapped in tin foil, or taped-off section of tabletop.
- Paint
- Cotton swabs
- A paint roller – a brayer is a special tool meant for printmaking, but you can also use a paint roller or a stiff, foam craft brush
- Sheets of paper – copy paper works just fine, but thicker drawing paper is best

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<td>1.</td>
<td>Roll a thin, even coat of paint on your surface.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Use a cotton swab to draw a design in the paint. The cotton swab will “erase” the paint as you go.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Lay a sheet of paper on top of your design.</td>
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4. Rub the entire surface of the paper gently and evenly.

5. Peel off the paper to reveal your print!

6. Notice and discuss:
   - Is your print exactly the same as your original design?
   - What do you think caused any differences you see?
   - What would you like to try doing differently for your next print?

More things to try:
- Try making a second print by repeating steps 3-5. What do you notice happens to your design as you create more prints?
- Experiment with using more than one color of paint. What happens to the colors when you make your print?
- Try writing your name or other words in your design and making a print. What happened to the letters? Can you create a print that you can read?
- After you roll an even layer of paint on your surface, you can try adding texture by dabbing it with a balled up piece of fabric or a plastic bag. Then follow steps 2-5 to pull a print. Do you like how the textured background looks on your print?
- What do you think would happen if you draw a design on your paper with marker before you use it to make a print? Can you combine your marker drawing with your print to create one whole picture?

Find more at-home activities at http://discoveryacton.org/discovery-home.