Try Your Hand at Simple Printmaking!

There are many beautiful prints made by Inuit artists in the collection of the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum. With a few items from around your home, you can experiment with a simple form of printmaking yourself.



A Styrofoam meat tray works great for this project. Find one with a flat bottom.



Keep the flattest pieces of the tray bottom, and discard the rest.



Cut out the flattest part of the tray. If you are careful, you can make two pieces to print from.



Use a DULL pencil to draw your design. Press firmly to make sure your lines are deep in the Styrofoam.



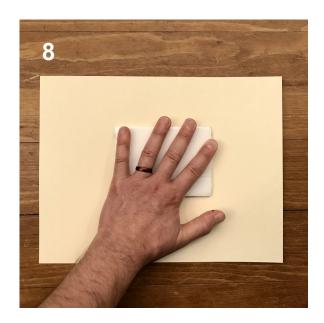
TIP: Any lines you draw and any areas you color in will be WHITE when you print your design.



Lightly apply paint to the surface of your Styrofoam drawing. Try to keep the paint from filling in the lines.



Gather paint, a paintbrush, and a piece of paper to print on.



Press the Styrofoam piece drawing-side down onto the paper. Make sure the Styrofoam does not move around.



Starting from one side, slowly lift the Styrofoam off the paper. You just made a print!



If you carefully wash and dry the Styrofoam drawing, you can make as many prints as you like, in any colors you like!



