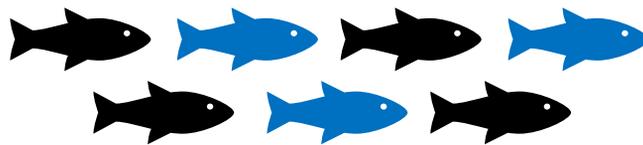


Creating Repeat Patterns

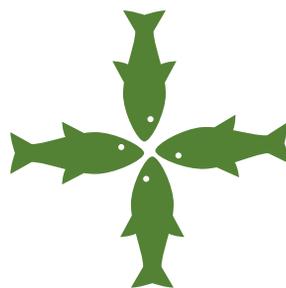
A **repeat pattern** is made from a design element replicated at least once or as many times as you want. A **design element** can be any shape, form or figure such as an animal, plant, person, or geometric design. As it repeats, the design element may rotate, flip or change colour as long as it is an exact replica of itself.

There are **3 symmetry operations** in repeat patterns:

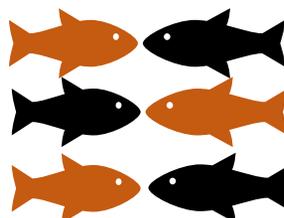
1. **Translation** - The design element is repeated with no change in orientation; it can be staggered. Think of it as **sliding** the element.



2. **Rotation** - The design element is rotated around a point. Think of it as **turning** the element.



3. **Reflection** - The design element is mirrored along an axis; it can be mirrored horizontally and/or vertically. Think of it as **flipping** the element.



The exhibition **Printed Textiles from Kinngait Studios** tells the story of Inuit artists and printmakers from Kinngait (Cape Dorset) in Nunavut in the 1950s and 60s. They created beautiful printed textiles using design elements from their own environment and culture.

Look at some of the design elements or motifs that the artists and printmakers of Kinngait Studios used to make patterns on their printed textiles.

Can you recognize the symmetry operations they used?



Activity: Block Printing

In this activity, you will be using everyday materials to make your own printing block. You can use this block to print patterns on paper or fabric.

You will need:



- Craft foam or recycled food container foam
- Box cardboard 4" x 4"
- Scissors
- Plain paper or plain, light-coloured fabric
- Pencil
- Acrylic or craft paint
- Paint brush
- Glue or hot glue gun

What to do:

1. Draw a design element on your foam. This can be any simple shape, form or figure. You will be cutting this out and using this to make a pattern, so keep it simple! For your first block, try to keep the size no bigger than 2" x 2".
2. Cut out the image.



Activity: Block Printing

What to do cont'd:

- Use glue to attach the foam shape to a piece of cardboard. Remember that your print will be a mirror image of your foam shape. Glue your foam shape so that it looks “backwards” when looking at it on your cardboard. This will ensure that your image prints the correct way. Let it dry. This will be your printing block.



- Apply paint on to the foam, avoiding getting any paint on the cardboard. Apply paint evenly.



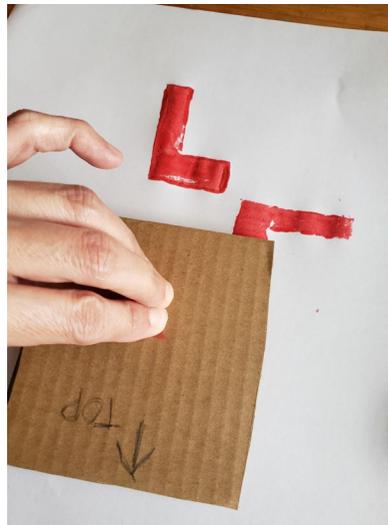
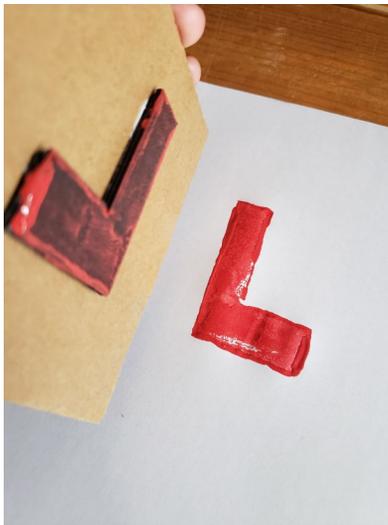
- Carefully press your printing block on your printing surface (paper or fabric) for a few seconds, keeping an even pressure. It's helpful to mark which is the top of your design.



Activity: Block Printing

What to do cont'd:

6. Gently lift your block up to see the print. You can now repeat the process to make more prints and produce a pattern. Try out some of the symmetry operations or come up with your own pattern!



Can you tell what symmetry pattern this is?

To learn more about *Printed Textiles from Kinngait Studios*, check out our exhibition page on our website <https://textilemuseum.ca/>.

A virtual tour provides a peek into the exhibition while we are closed. It uses footage filmed during the opening celebrations of the exhibition and installation photographs.

Explore different aspects of Inuit culture on our digital app. Learn some Inuktitut words (one of the languages spoken by the Inuit), watch how to build an igloo, and listen to the legend of Nuliajuk, the sea goddess.