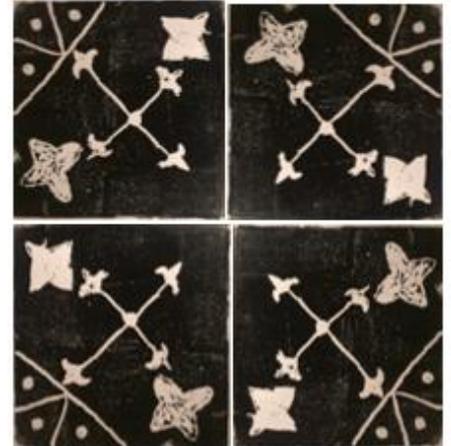


Design a Medieval Tile

Suitable for: Children aged 4-11

Things You Will Need:

- Polystyrene sheets; you can buy or collect it from everyday materials such as plates or pizza bases.
- Tempera Paint or Water soluble printing ink
- Printing roller (you can improvise with a rolling pin)
- Paper to print on
- Pencil
- Ball point pen
- Apron and paper or tablecloth to cover workspace (things can get messy!)
- Optional: tracing paper



You will love the excitement of printmaking and learning that you can re-cycle everyday materials to make beautiful prints.

About this craft activity: This project uses materials that you probably already have at home. The only items you may not have are printing rollers and printing ink (but you can improvise with using a brush instead of a roller and tempera paint).

Did you know? Medieval floor tiles were discovered on the site of All Saints! In Medieval times **Encaustic tiles** were popular between the 13th to the 15th centuries and were common in churches and royal sites across Britain. These were almost always a red-brown background with a white design. A yellow glaze was often be applied, making the design look honey-coloured. The great thing about Encaustic tiles was craftsmen could make a detailed image (using tile stamps) for relatively little effort and cost.



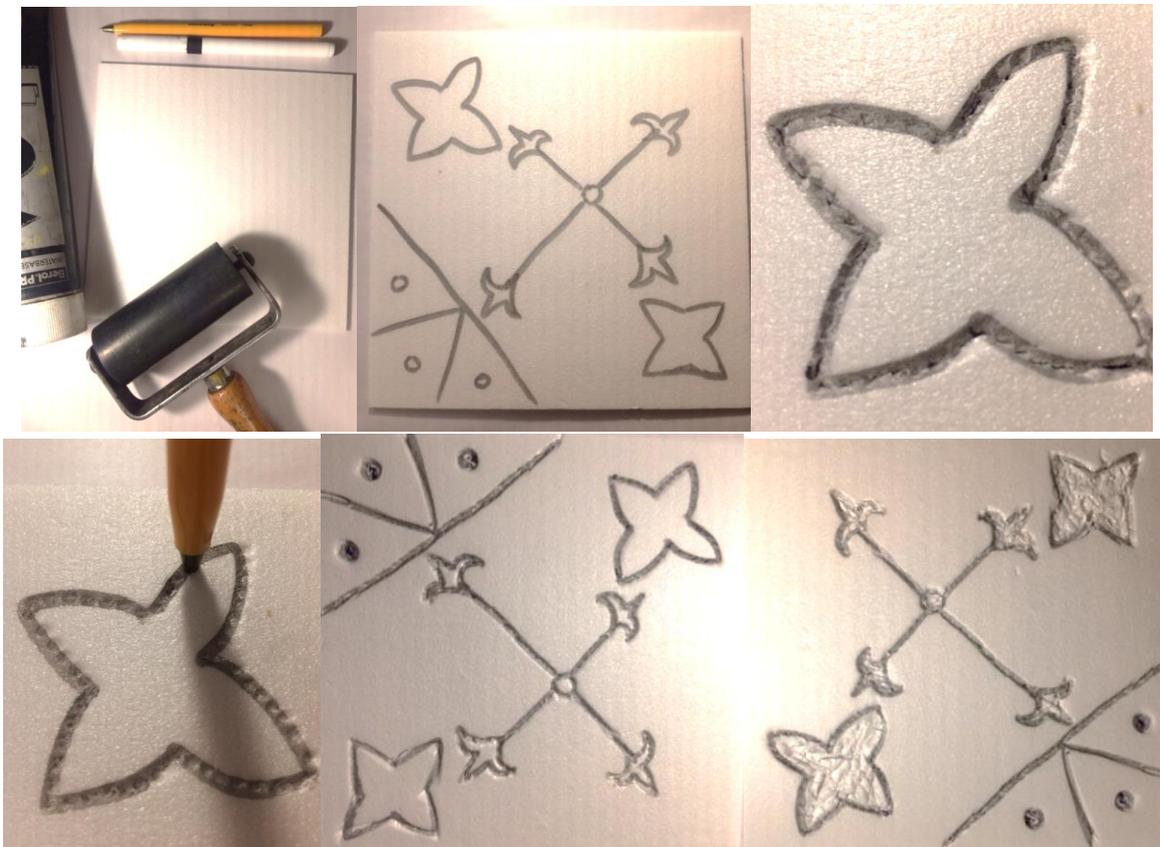
Examples of Medieval Encaustic tiles

How to Make Your Tile

Step 1: Draw your design directly on to the foam using a ballpoint pen or pencil. Be sure to press down hard to make deep lines. You should go over your drawings a few times just to be sure the lines are deep enough.

Top tips:

- *Your picture will print in reverse, so make sure any lettering is backwards!*
- *You can 'block out' areas by pressing down and filling them using a ballpoint pen. Don't worry if you make a hole by accident- use some tape on the back to keep everything in place!*
- *For younger children, collect lots of things that will make marks like cookie cutters and experiment with pressing into the foam to make textures.*



Step 2: If you have a printing roller and ink, give your foam sheet an even coat of ink. Make sure not to make this too thick! If you don't have these, then give the foam a light and even coat of paint improvising with materials you may have to hand such as tempera paint and a brush.



Step 3: Flip the painted piece of foam over on to a sheet of paper and give it a firm pressing with a clean printing roller or rolling pin.

Top tip:

-Make sure your polystyrene block doesn't move around as you're rolling it!



Step 4: Peel back the foam and marvel at the amazing tile you've just created!

Top tip:

-Can you make a repeat pattern with your tile?

