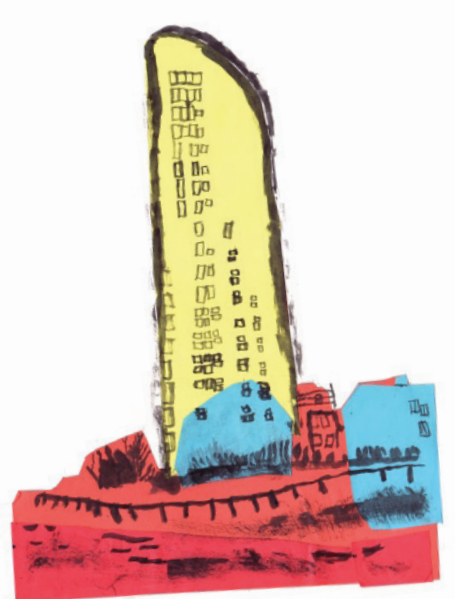


PAPER-CUT LANDMARK ILLUSTRATIONS



A 'HOW-TO' RESOURCE
FOR TEACHERS

INTRODUCTION

This is a process of using cut-paper illustration techniques, combined with collage and tracing to produce striking images of local landmarks.

Using cut-out shapes of coloured paper or card is a simple way of producing bold graphic and colourful illustrations. It is also a technique which is accessible to students who have low confidence or limited skills in drawing.

MATERIALS

The materials required for this workshop are usually available in the classroom or to order from educational or art suppliers. You will need:

Coloured card for backing

Images of local landmarks, printed or photocopied on to 2 or 3 different colours of paper (see note at the end of Stage 4)

Tracing paper

Pencils (HB, 3B)

Paper clips

Scissors

Pritt Stick

Black ink (or fine black pens if unavailable)

Acrylic brushes, size 1 (if using black ink)

STAGE 1: Tracing

Using a paper clip, affix a sheet of tracing paper to one of the printed images.

Then trace the image, turning it into a line drawing. For best results, first trace the outlines of the main shapes in the image, then select some of the more important details to add to the tracing. A soft pencil such as a 2B or 3B is best for this part of the process, and helps when conveying the image later (see Stage 3).

Some students may struggle to 'edit' the photograph to create a line drawing and may need some help choosing shapes to trace to avoid getting bogged down in a highly detailed drawing.

STAGE 2: Paper- cuts

For the next stage, choose a colour of card for the background, and affix the tracing to the backing card with a paper clip as before but with the pencil lines face down on the card.

Now select and cut out some of the main shapes in the image - perhaps the facade of a building - from a different coloured paper. Glue the shapes into place, arranging them on the backing card, under the tracing paper, using the tracing as a guide for placement.

Smaller shapes chosen from the image, (e.g. windows, doors, trees etc...) can now be added as above, using different colours of paper. The arrangement of the shapes need not be perfectly aligned with the tracing, as some misregistration between the coloured shapes and the black lines (added later) creates a vibrancy that is a part of the visual appeal of the illustration.



STAGE 3: Conveying the tracing

When the cut paper shapes have all been arranged and glued down, the traced line drawing can now be conveyed on to the coloured image. The best way to do this, with the tracing still held in place with the paper clips and the pencil drawing face down on the coloured card, is to retrace the lines using a harder pencil (e.g. HB). This process transfers the pencil lines faintly on to the coloured paper. The faint line drawing can be used as a guide when applying ink to the illustration.

STAGE 4: Ink Drawing

The final stage is to add black lines to the basic cut-paper colour scheme. This is best done using black ink and brushes, as the lines will be stronger and create a clearer image. However if this resource is not available, black fine-liner pens may be used and may be easier for younger children. Remove the tracing and paper clips. Using the faint pencil lines as a guide, add some more details to the image using brush and ink. It may be useful for students to use the original image as a reference.

However, the version that they are working on will be reversed. Most photocopiers have a 'mirror/ reverse' function which allows you to produce a mirrored version. It can be used as a reference at this stage, or perhaps to begin with, so that the final image is correct.

