

# Indian Art

## Learning Objective:

To explore the Indian block-printing technique.



Do you know how  
this fabric was made?  
How was the pattern  
put on it?



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**This fabric was made with a block-printing technique.**

**Were you correct?**

**Block printing has been used in India since the 12th century. It is used to create bold and vibrant patterns on fabric.**

How do you think the patterns were printed on this fabric?



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The main tool used to create block-printed fabric is a wooden block called a bunta. The blocks are shaped and then a design is carved into one side. A wooden handle is attached to the other side of the block so the printer can hold the block and use it.



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**This man is block printing some fabric. The printing always starts from the left and moves to the right. When the block is in place it is slammed down hard to leave a clear and sharp impression.**



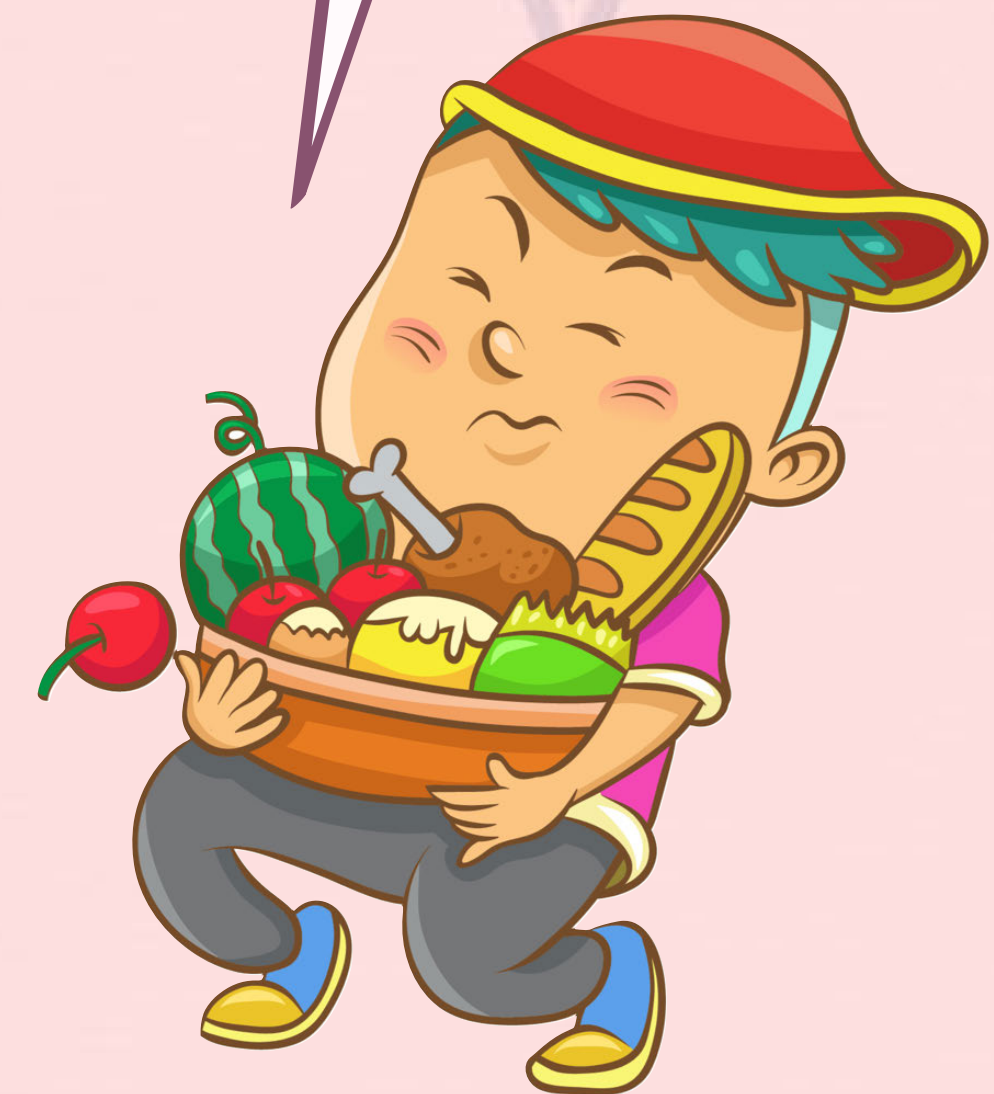
Let's have a look at some block-printed fabric. Did you know the blocks are soaked in oil first so they are soft enough to be carved. They are hand carved into many different shapes.







What  
can you see in  
this picture? Look at  
the fabric the man is  
holding. What colours were  
used? What shapes were  
used? How many  
different blocks do you  
think were used to  
make it?



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What can you see in this picture? Look at the fabric the man is making. What colours were used? What shapes were used? How many different blocks do you think were used to make it?



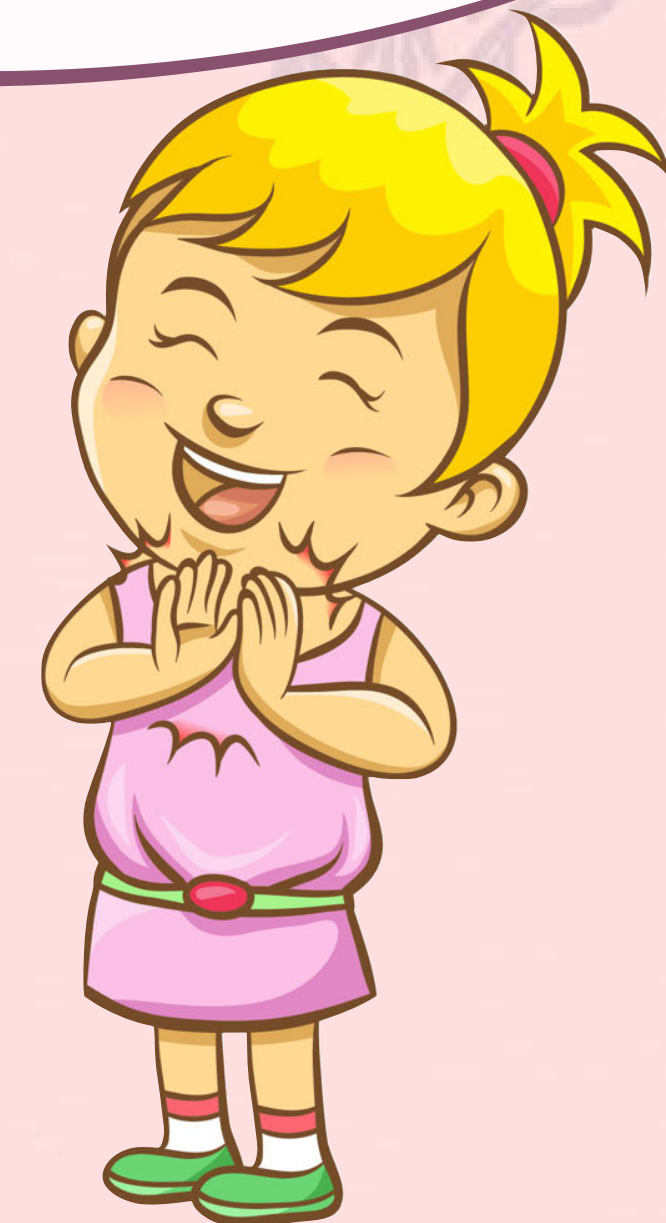
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What can you see in this picture? Look at the fabric the woman is printing. What colours were used? What shapes were used? Do you think she will use any more blocks on this fabric? What colour or shape would you add?



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What shapes were used? How many different blocks do you think were used to make this fabric? Have patterns been used more than once?



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What can  
you see in this  
picture? Look at the  
fabric the man is holding.  
What colours were used  
What shapes were used?  
How many different blocks  
do you think were used  
to make it?



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**Think, pair, share  
your ideas.**

Do you think you  
could make your own  
block-printed fabric? How  
would you make a block  
stamp using classroom  
materials?



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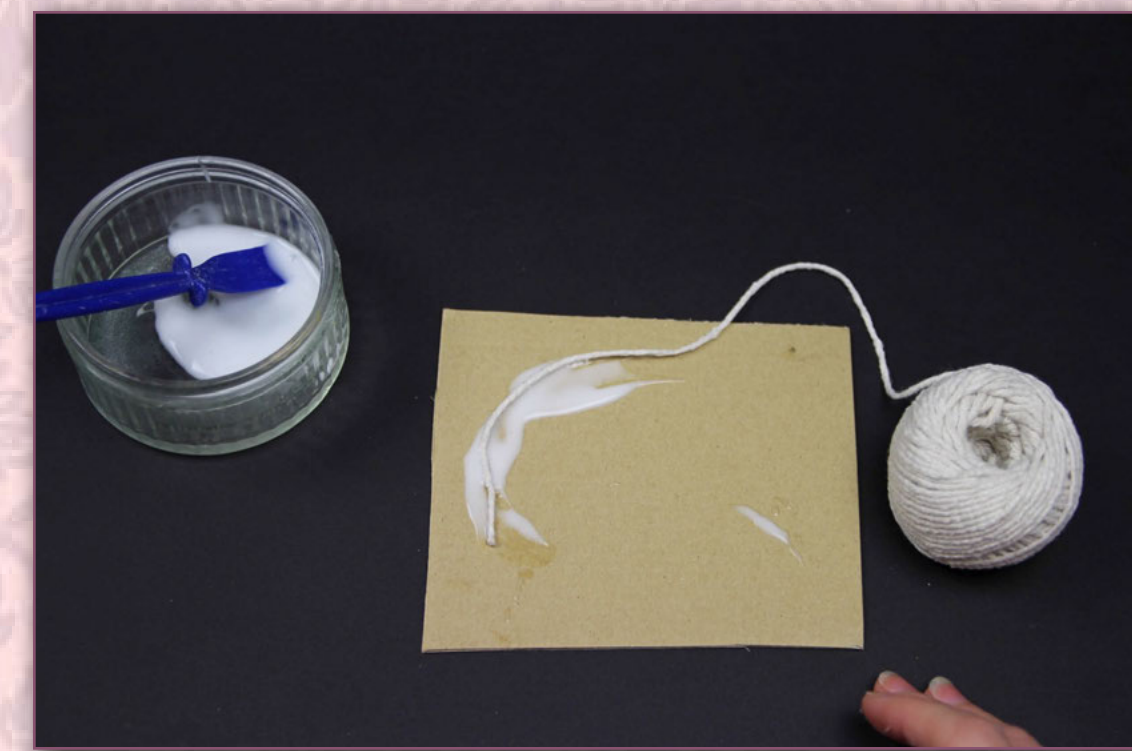
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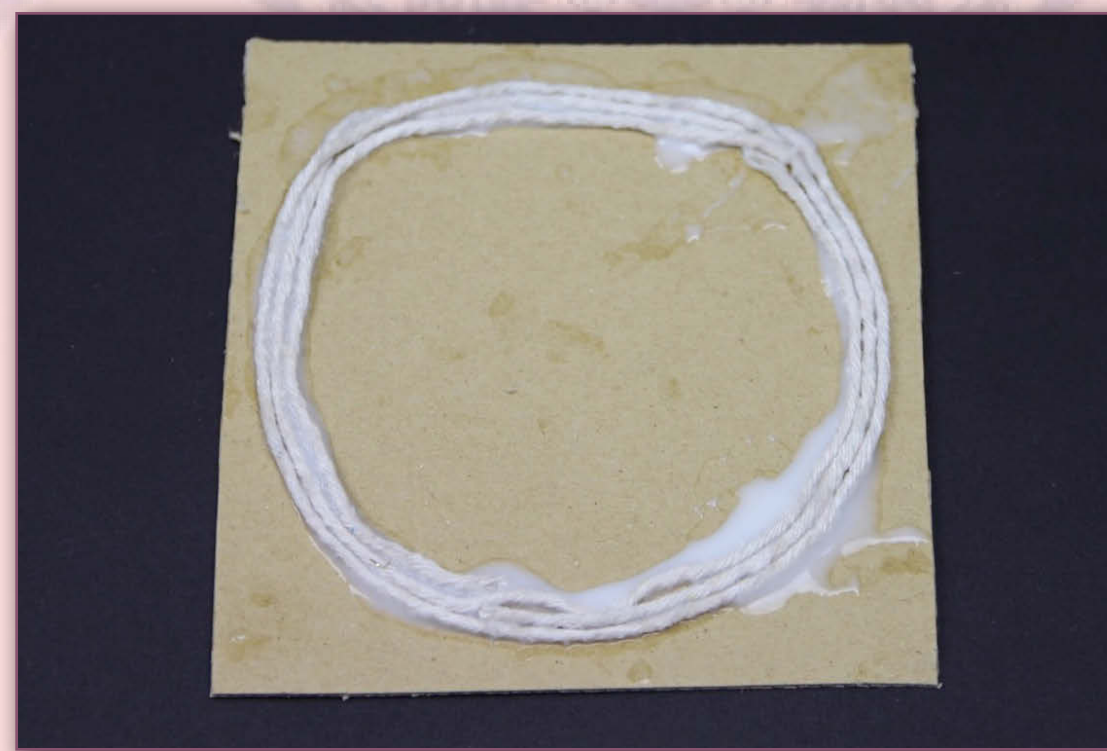
Follow these steps to make your own block stamp to use for printing.



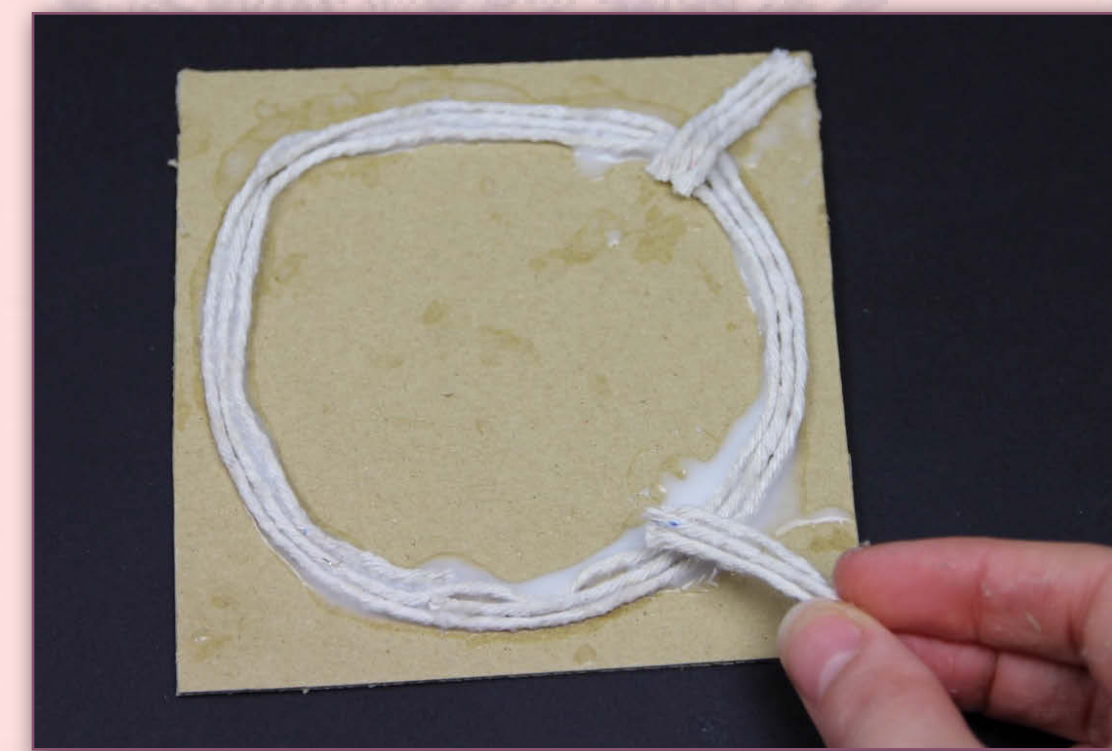
**You will need a cardboard square that is 10cm x 10cm, string, glue and scissors.**



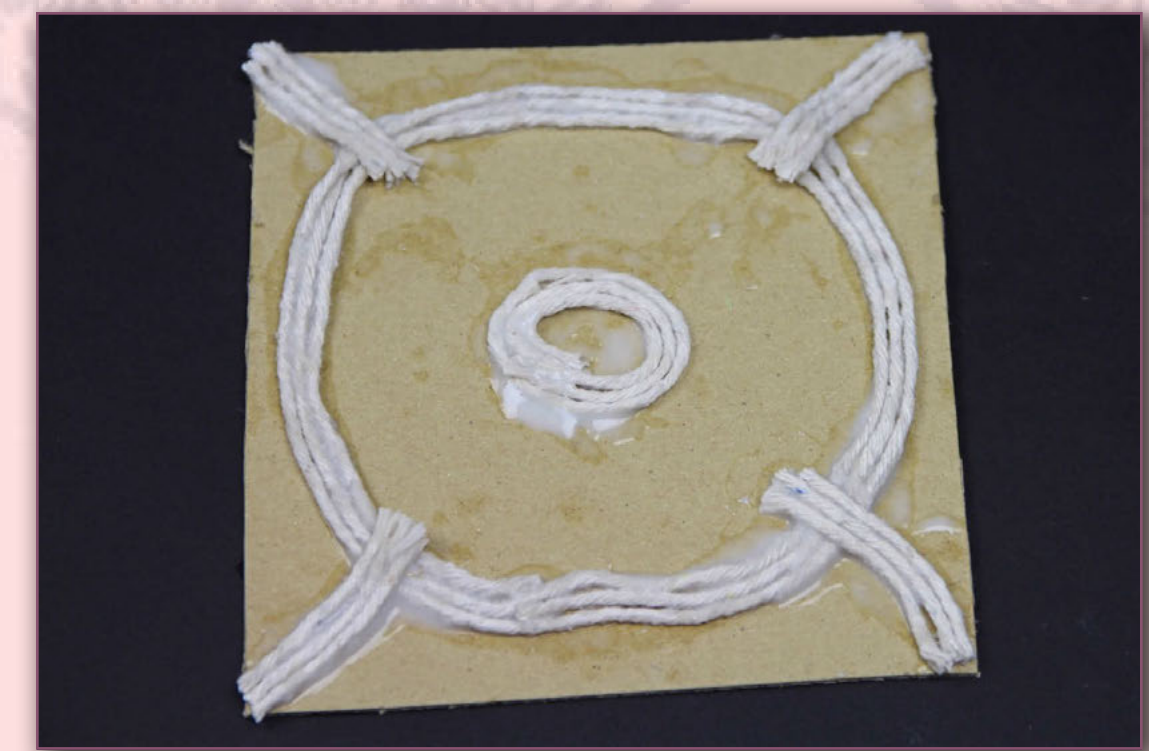
**Paste some glue to the cardboard and use the string to make a circle.**



**Continue to wrap the string around the circle three times to make a fatter circle.**



**Cut three strips of string and glue them from the circle to the outside edges.**



**Glue a smaller circle in the middle.**

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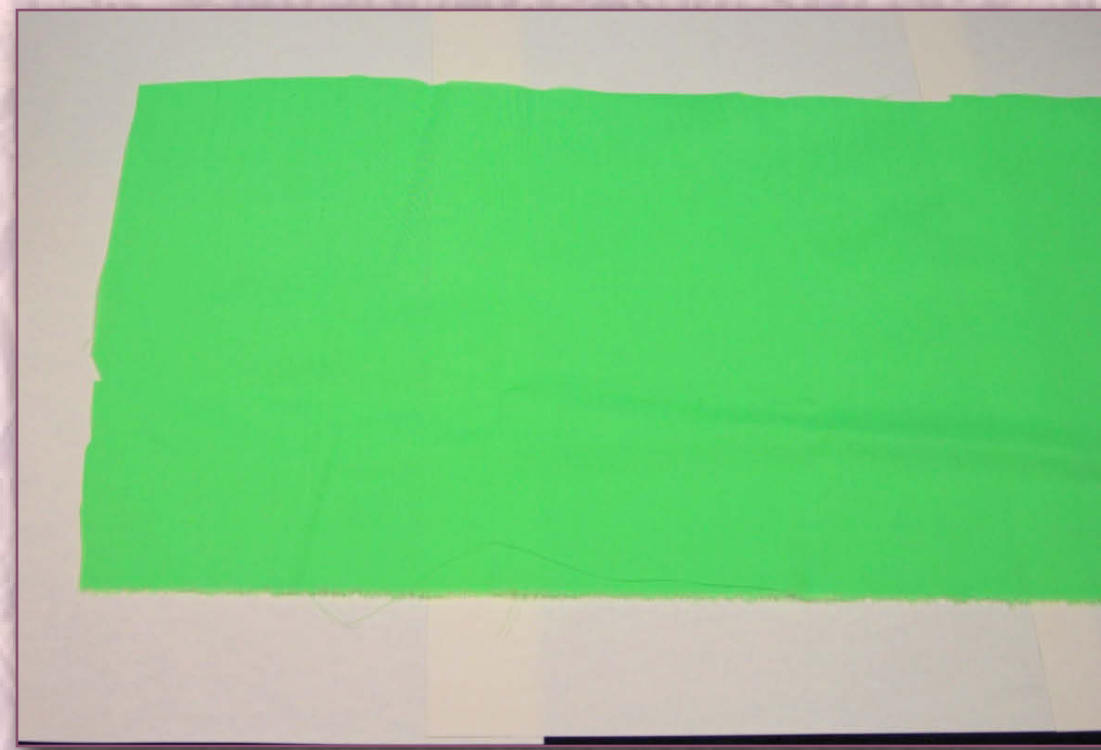
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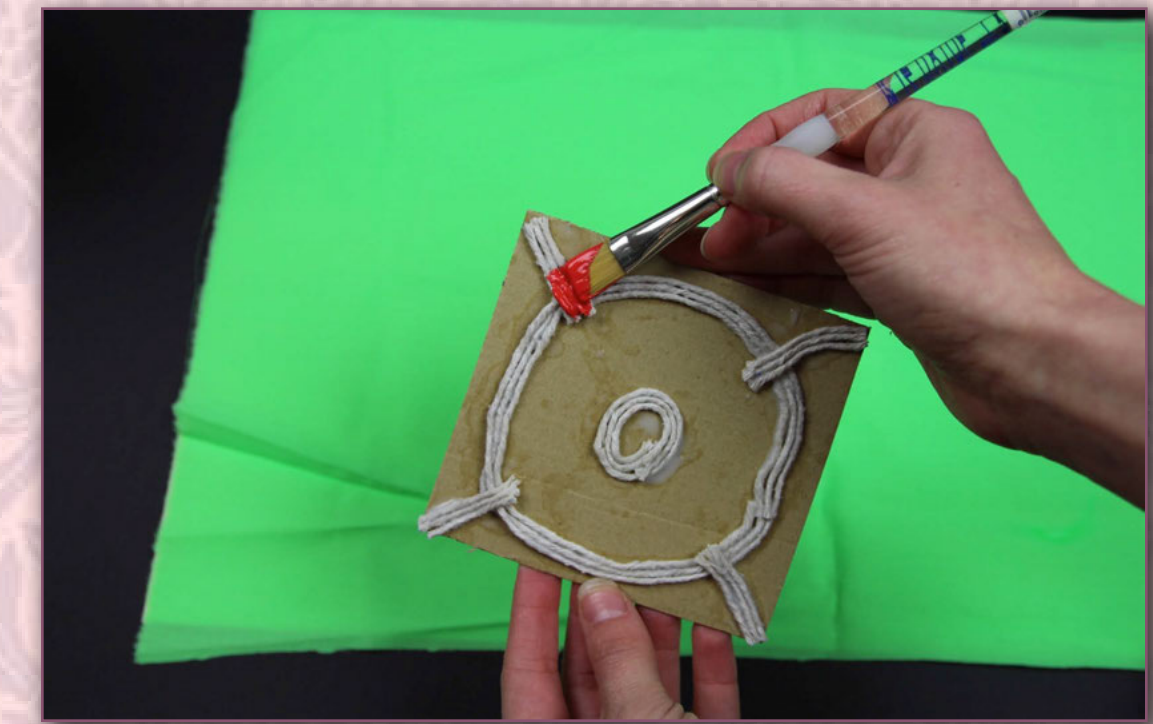
Follow these steps to use your block to make prints on fabric.



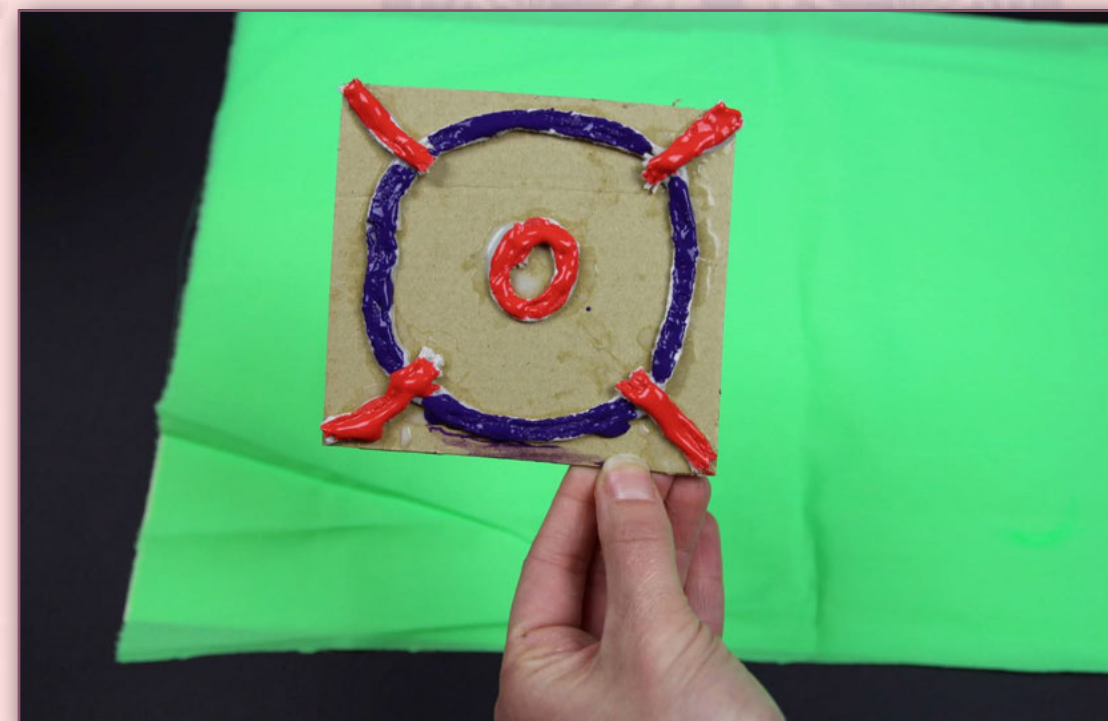
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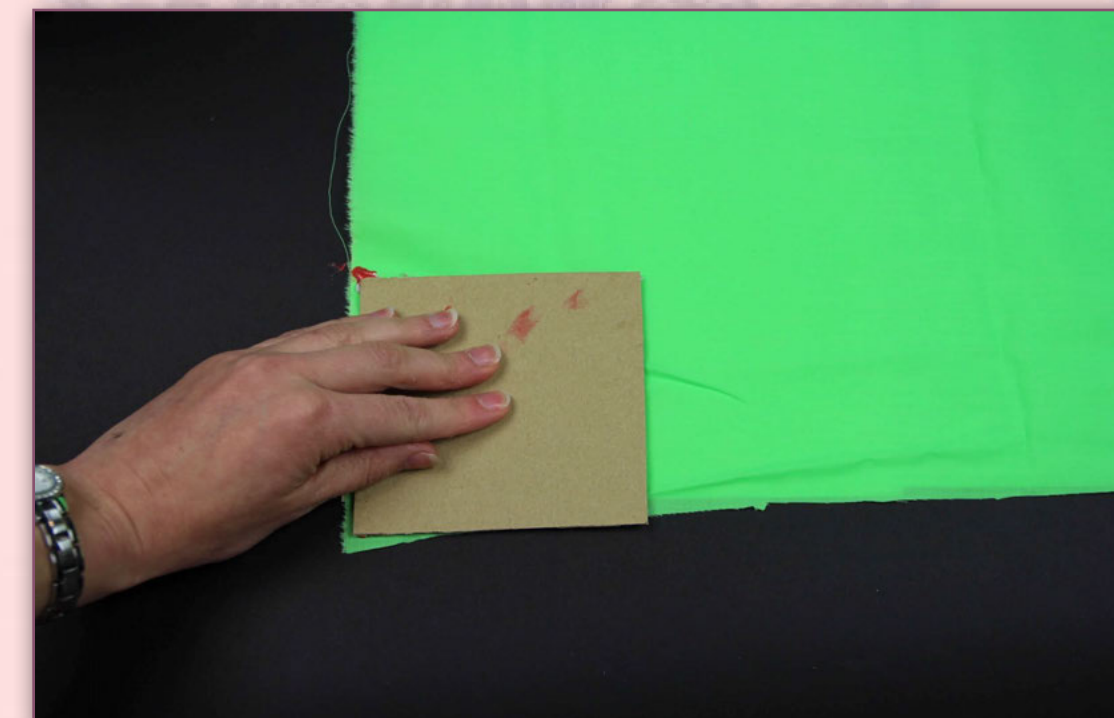
**Find some fabric and cut it to double the height of your square block (20cm). You can make it as long as you like.**



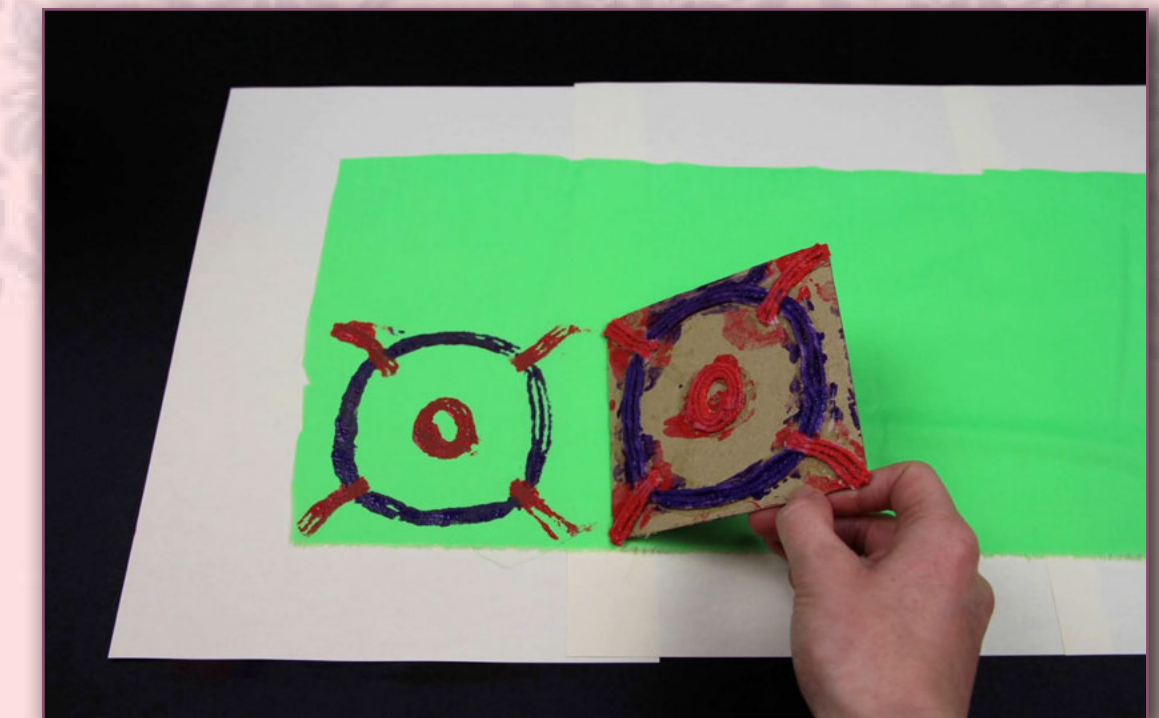
**Carefully paint the string of your block stamp using one or two colours.**



**Try to put a thin layer of paint on the stamp to stop it smudging when you press it down.**



**Carefully place your painted stamp on the bottom left-hand corner of the fabric.**



**Peel the stamp off and place it down again next to the first print. You may need to add some more paint.**

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Continue stamping to the end of the fabric and then place the stamp on the top left-hand side of the fabric (above the first original stamp). Continue stamping to the end again to make a second row of stamps.



Once your fabric is dry you can add some sequins and beads to the design for an extra-special effect.

For an extra challenge, make another block stamp to add smaller patterns to your original design.



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