

Screen Printing Lessons & Projects Manual

Introduction

Screen printing is a practical, low-cost vocational skill. Here are some project ideas, step-by-step instructions, and sustainability considerations for international settings.

Sustainability Considerations

1. Always consider if supplies can be replenished locally.
2. Determine whether the community has access to design tools such as computers, printers, or internet programs like Canva.
3. Identify where screens can be burned. Example: A print shop may be an hour away by bus and require multiple trips.
4. Film sheets are not sustainable in humid environments; alternative burning methods require more supplies and a dark room.
5. Local groups often innovate with stencil-type screens which can be reused.
6. A strong organizational structure must be in place to prevent misuse and ensure accountability for shared supplies.

Supplies Needed

- Screens
- Hinge boards
- Masking tape
- Ink
- Squeegees
- Craft sticks for ink application
- Cleaning supplies (minimal water required)
- Fabric items such as tote bags or shirts

Lesson 1: Screen Setup

Step-by-step setup:

1. Attach the screen securely to hinges.
2. Tape all four sides of the screen to prevent ink leakage.
3. Align fabric to ensure a straight print (similar to 'squaring up').
4. Ensure workspace is flat and materials are within reach.

Lesson 2: Applying Ink

1. Apply ink in a horizontal line using a craft stick.
2. Hold squeegee at approximately 45 degrees.

3. Flood the screen with ink (light coat).
4. Pull squeegee across screen with firm, even pressure.
5. Lift screen carefully to avoid smearing.
6. Allow print to dry completely.

Lesson 3: Cleaning & Maintenance

1. Remove excess ink using a scraper or craft stick.
2. Wipe screen with minimal water—important in areas with limited resources.
3. Ensure screen is fully dry before storing.
4. Maintain a rotating assignment for supply management to prevent exclusivity or misuse.

Screen Printing Project Ideas

- Tote bags
- Shirts and uniforms
- Upcycled rice sacks
- Community event merchandise
- Personalized village-branded items

5 Ps Worksheet

Product – What item are you printing?
Price – What will it cost and sell for?
Profit – What is earned per item?
Promotion – How will people hear about it?
Place – Where will items be sold?