

Tutorial: Creating a foam sheet print of *The Great Wave off Kanagawa* using acrylic paint.

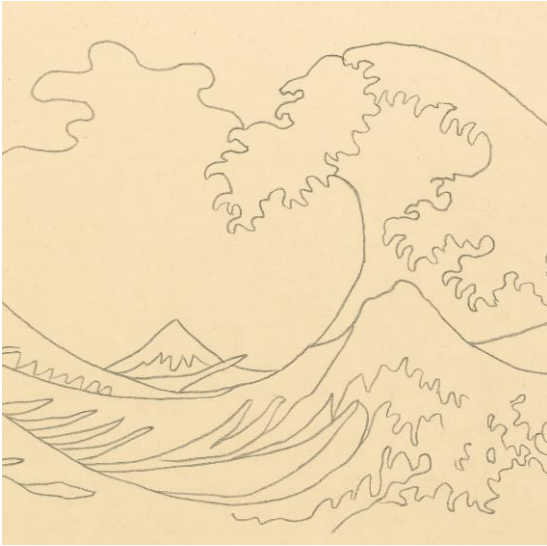


Materials List:

- A4 foam sheet (thin craft foam)
 - Pencil
 - Ballpoint pen or blunt tool (for etching lines)
 - A4 white card or thick paper
 - Acrylic paints (blue, white, black, beige, grey)
 - Paintbrushes and sponge rollers
 - Plastic plate or palette
 - Brayer (optional)
 - Apron or old shirt
 - Paper towels
 - Tape (to hold paper or foam steady)
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Step 1: Lightly Sketch the Picture onto the Foam

Use a pencil to lightly sketch the key lines of the artwork onto the foam sheet. Focus on the outline of the large wave, the smaller waves, Mount Fuji in the background, and the boats. Remember to create your foam print the opposite way round to the way you want it.



Step 2: Etch the Design into the Foam

Using a ballpoint pen (with the lid off!) or a blunt pencil, carefully press over your pencil lines to create grooves. Don't press too hard or you'll go through the foam — just enough to leave a dent.

Top Tip: The deeper the groove, the whiter that area will appear in the final print.

Step 3: Prepare Your Paints

Squeeze small amounts of acrylic paint onto a plastic plate or palette. You'll need:

- **Dark blue** (for the main waves)
- **Light blue** (for variation)
- **White** (for foam and highlights)
- **Grey or beige** (for sky)
- **Black or navy** (for boat details)

Step 4: Apply Paint to the Foam

Use a sponge roller or wide paintbrush to gently roll or dab paint over the raised areas of the foam. Be careful not to get paint into the grooves. Work in sections:

- Paint the waves first in shades of blue and white.
- Use a clean brush for the beige or grey sky.
- Add details like the boats using a small brush.

Tip: You can also try painting directly onto the foam using a small brush if you want more control over each area.

Step 5: Make the Print

Lay your paper or card gently on top of the painted foam. Press down firmly and evenly with your hands, making sure you don't shift the paper.

If you have one, use a brayer to roll over your paper, as this applies even pressure; but if you don't, you can rub the back with your palm to apply even pressure.

Step 6: Peel and Reveal!

Carefully lift the paper off the foam, starting from one corner. You should see your print revealed, with grooves showing white where you etched, and painted areas transferred beautifully.

Step 7: Touch Up or Print Again

If needed, use a small brush to tidy up or enhance details once the print is dry. You can also repaint your foam and try another print — experiment with colour changes or pressure for different effects!

Final Tips:

- Wash your foam gently if you want to reuse it.
- Try printing on different coloured paper.
- Don't worry if it's not perfect — foam prints always have a hand-made charm!