

Potato Prints

Potato printing is an art form that is found in many places. In Germany it is called Kartoffeldruck. In Poland it is called Kartoffeltryk. In Zimbabwe it is called Kudhinda.

Most traditional potato prints are made the same way. First, the artist carves a design in the potato. In Zimbabwe, the design is often an animal. In Germany the design is usually a geometric shape.

Next, the artist paints the potato with ink. They use bright colors. The colors make the art cheerful and fun.

The artist then stamps the potato design onto a piece of fabric. They stamp the design over and over to create a pattern. In Zimbabwe you might see rows of elephants printed on a tablecloth. In Poland you might see lines of fir trees on an apron.

You can use the directions above to make your own potato art. If you don't have fabric, you can stamp your potato design on paper. You might make a holiday card or wrapping paper with your potato prints.

An easy way to carve a design into your potato is to use a cookie cutter. First you cut off the end of the potato. Then you press the cookie cutter into the flat part. Next you ask an adult to remove the potato around the cutter.



Now your potato is ready to paint and stamp. What will you make? Art!



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NAME: _____ DATE: _____

1. Which country is NOT mentioned in the passage?
 - a. Germany
 - b. Zimbabwe
 - c. China
 - d. Poland

2. What designs are often used in Zimbabwe?
 - a. Animals
 - b. Shapes
 - c. Fir trees
 - d. Potatoes

3. What does the author suggest you use to carve your potato?
 - a. A knife
 - b. Scissors
 - c. Fabric
 - d. A cookie cutter

4. Why would you probably not see an elephant in a traditional potato print from Poland?
 - a. Because only artists in Zimbabwe use animal designs
 - b. Because elephants don't live in Poland
 - c. Because elephants don't look good on aprons
 - d. Because Polish artists only use fir tree designs

Instructions for teachers:

These questions can be used to assess understanding of the reading passage.

The item in bold is the correct answer for each question.

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