

# Corrugated Cardboard Silhouettes

Paper collage has been widely used by artists since the 20th century. Pablo Picasso and George Braque began including bits of newspaper and wood fiber papers in collages. Fine art papers are available in wonderful, pre-textured, pre-colored and pre-shaped varieties in a number of finishes. Cultural patterns and animal prints are the most unique. In this lesson, cut papers in silhouette form and the unity of shapes stress the principles and elements of design.

## Grade Levels 5-12

*Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.*

## Process

- Select a sheet of corrugated paper for the background. Sketch an image in silhouette on a sheet of 9" x 12" black construction paper. Consider the direction of the lines in the corrugated paper. For example, horizontal lines may be best for landscapes and vertical lines for buildings. Design may also be abstract.
- Using a stencil knife or scissors, cut along the pencil silhouette. Stencil knives are good for older students. If scissors are used, discuss cutting techniques. Scissors must be turned at times to get clean cuts. Cut with the inside "V" of the blades. Cutting to the tip of the blades can cause the paper to tear at the point.
- Place the silhouette shapes on top of the corrugated sheet. Consider additional silhouettes to add interest and break up large special areas.
- Trace outline edges of the silhouette designs onto the corrugated sheet. Apply glue to the top of the corrugated lines with a brush or use a glue stick. Gently place the paper over the correct area.

## Options

- Use origami papers and decorative papers to add interest to the design. This will change the positive and negative contrast.



## Materials

- [Folia Corrugated Sheets](#) (12231-1010) 10" x 14", share three 10-sheet packages across classroom
- [Blick 80-lb Premium Construction Paper, Black](#) (11409-2003) 9" x 12", share one 50-sheet package across classroom
- [Blick Economy Graphite Pencils](#) (20302-2009) package of 12, need one per student
- [Excel® Hobby Knives](#) (57458-1001), need one per student
- [Snippy Scissors](#), (57040-2005) package of 12, need one per student
- [Blick White Glue](#) (23872-1065) 8-oz share four bottles across classroom OR [Blick Glue Stick](#) (23872-1032), 1.27-oz, package of 12, need one per student

Optional Materials for Collage:

- [Decorative Paper Assortment](#) (12440-1001) share two 1-lb package assorted papers across classroom
- [Aitoh™ Origami Mesh Paper](#) (11272-1001), share one 20-sheet package across classroom
- [Origami Animal Patterns](#) (11206-0249), share one 24-sheet package across classroom
- [Collage Techniques](#) (71628-1001), book with great ideas for collage

## National Standards

**Content Standard #1** — Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

- **5-8** Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas
- **9-12** Students apply media, techniques, and processes with sufficient skill, confidence, and sensitivity that their intentions are carried out in their artworks

**Content Standard #3** — Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas

- **5-8** Students use subjects, themes, and symbols that demonstrate knowledge of contexts, values, and aesthetics that communicate intended meaning in artworks
- **9-12** Students reflect on how artworks differ visually, spatially, temporally, and functionally, and describe how these are related to history and culture