

Guatemalan lino-print activity

Mix art and reflection in this practical activity based on Mayan culture. This activity was created by former CAFOD-Gapper Iona for young people listening to a talk by CAFOD partner Fr Natxo from Guatemala.

YOU WILL NEED:

- One hour
- Fr Natxo's PowerPoint (Print this out if you don't have a projector.)
- Paper
- Pens and pencils
- Styrofoam blocks for lino printing (search for these online.)
- Lino-printing ink
- Lino-printing ink-rollers
- Newspaper

Life in Guatemala

Explore life in Guatemala through Fr. Natxo's PowerPoint. Before you start, ask the young people to look out for what colours, patterns and symbols they see.

If you don't have a projector, print the slides out onto A4 paper and stick these round the room and give the young people ten minutes to look at them. Perhaps play some Guatemalan music while they do this (search online for 'Marimba music Guatemala')



Recall and discuss

- What was your favourite image?
- What colours and patterns did you see?
- What surprised you?
- What did you learn about life in Guatemala?

Choose designs/create designs

In Father Nacho's community they use parts of Mayan culture to express their Catholic faith. For example, they recognise the sanctity of creation and the natural world. Many believe that the Holy Spirit works through creation.

Either choose one of Iona's patterns below, create your own taking inspiration from Father Nacho's pictures or search online for Mayan colours and symbols. Red, blue, black, yellow and white are particularly important colours.

Lino print

- Cover your work area with newspaper.
- Using a pen or pencil, press the Mayan pattern into the styrofoam blocks. Make sure you make a good indent, so the pattern is clear.
- Cover the whole patterned side of the styrofoam block with a layer of ink using the ink-roller.



- Press your block, ink-side down onto your paper, making sure you use even pressure. Take it off carefully and leave your beautiful Mayan print out to dry!

Reflection

Why not use your prints for reflection at the end of the session? Light a candle and display the prints around. Invite each young person to share a prayer or reflection from the session. Perhaps you could reflect on the importance and sanctity of creation, for example, by reading Job 12:7-9.

Notes

Don't have ink and rollers? Get creative! Use paint instead or alternatively use potatoes for printing or do collages using natural materials.

Picture credits: Fr Natxo, CAFOD, Iona.



