Episode: “Lost Hat”

Albie discovers a lost hat in the elevator and is determined to find its owner. She visits a printmaker, who shows her how to create posters through a process called screen printing, which gives Albie an idea. Albie makes lots of posters to spread the word about the lost hat, which helps find its owner. It’s important to look out for your neighbors, and Albie feels proud that she was able to help.

Activity

Materials:
For poster:
• Printer and poster printable OR
• Black permanent marker
• Paper

For printing:
• Aluminum foil
• Washable markers
• Spray bottle of water
• Tape

Steps:
1. Watch the episode “Lost Hat” to see how printmaker Justine Kelley creates posters though a process called screenprinting. Notice how many different layers and steps it takes for Justine to create the poster and how she uses words and pictures to share a message.
2. Print the black-and-white drawing of Justine's poster on a piece of paper (point out that computer printers are another type of printmaking!). You might choose to create your own poster instead, drawing with black permanent marker on paper. Grown-ups can help add some words. Set the poster aside when you're done.
3. Now it's time to add some color to your poster by printing with foil. Tape a piece of foil a bit larger than your poster to a table. The foil is your “printing plate.”
4. Use washable markers to color all over the foil. Fill the foil with as much ink as you can, creating lots of areas of color.
5. Spray the foil with water so that the marker starts to dissolve.
6. Press your poster, drawing side down, onto the wet foil. Press hard on all parts of the paper!
7. Slowly lift your poster to see the marker from the foil leave a colorful print on top of your poster. Notice how the design from your foil print is reversed, or opposite, in the print.
8. If there’s more marker left over on your foil, print again!

**Tips**

- Regular paper works fine for this project, but it can get slightly soggy when printed. It will dry! You can also use a thicker paper like cardstock if available.
- Try to use the thick side of the marker when coloring on the foil, which will leave more ink. Demonstrate how markers can make both thin and thick lines depending on how they’re held.
- Make sure to only use your marker on dry foil. Coloring on a wet surface can ruin them.

**In this activity, your child:**

- Followed a printing process with many layers and steps
- Used everyday materials and art supplies in a new way
- Conveyed a message on a poster using words and pictures

**Talk to your child! Conversation Starters:**

- We don’t know exactly how our print is going to look when we press it down onto the wet foil. How does it feel to add that kind of surprise to your artwork?
- Why do you think the color comes off of the foil when sprayed with water? Why might we need a material like foil to use for our printing plate?
- How is the printing project that we did similar and different to the way Justine created a screen print in the “Lost Hat” episode?
Keep Going!

Found Object Printing
Many artists use objects that have been thrown away in their art. These are called “found objects,” because an artist found and then used them! Collect some of your own found objects and print with them using paint. Dip the end of a toilet paper roll in paint to print a circle on a piece of paper. Cover bubble wrap in paint to print lots of dots. You can even print with celery hearts to make a flower shape.

Sign Search
Search for signs and posters in your community. How do the signs get your attention? Notice the bright colors and bold letters on stop signs or simple black drawings on yellow backgrounds on other street signs. Point out the many ways artists communicate messages with words and pictures.

Fingerprints, Handprints and Stamps
Play with stamps and ink pads to experiment with another type of printing. Try rolling your fingertips in the stamp pad to create fingerprints and notice the patterns and lines left behind where the ink couldn't quite reach. You can also paint your hands to make some classic handprints.

Vocabulary

**Print:** A copy of something like a picture or even the shape of something like a handprint

**Poster:** A sign with words and pictures that is often printed many times to share a message

**Permanent marker:** A marker with ink that does not dissolve or go away in water

**Washable marker:** A marker with ink that spreads and dissolves in water

**Reverse:** The opposite direction
More At-Home Activities
Visit PBS LearningMedia for more activities like this inspired by Albie’s Elevator.

Children’s Books with Related Themes
Check out these children’s books online or at your local library to continue exploring the concepts in this episode.

This is Not My Hat by John Klassen
The second book in the Lost Hat trilogy in which a fish finds a hat that fits him perfectly.

Beautiful Hands by Bret Baumgarten
A book of hand and fingerprints about all the amazing things even the littlest hands can do.