

# "PRINTED" OCEAN SCENES

First Impressions Can Really Matter!  
(So Can The Second, Third, Fourth...)

## MATERIALS:

Recycled Styrofoam (Any Clean Food Container or Plate With a Flat Surface)  
1 Dull Pencil (or Thin Paint Brush)  
1 Pair of Scissors  
Washable Markers - Multiple Colors  
1 Sheet of White Paper  
Water in a Spray Bottle or Damp Paper Towel or Damp Napkin



## DIRECTIONS:

### First, shape your styrofoam.

1. Using scissors, cut your recycled styrofoam into a small, flat shape. The shape can be a square, a triangle, a circle or any other that you choose as long as your piece is completely flat when you finish. A good size to start with is a shape with sides approximately three or four inches.

### Next, create your picture.

2. Think of an ocean scene that you would like to draw. This can be a fish swimming or an octopus with eight legs waving or anything else that you choose.
3. Now draw the picture on your styrofoam shape. Remember, drawing on styrofoam is different from drawing on regular paper. On styrofoam, if you press down very lightly with your pencil you will draw a regular picture. But, if you press down hard your pencil will sink down. When you press down hard, you will still draw the picture but your pencil lines will be down in the styrofoam. These are called impressions and the process is similar to a printing process called etching. For this project "etching" is the way to draw your picture on your styrofoam. You can also "etch" with the back of a paint brush.
4. After drawing your picture, use different color washable markers to color the surface of your styrofoam shape. It's okay if you color the impressions. This won't show up in the next step.

### Then, prepare your paper.

5. Place a sheet of white paper flat on a table.
6. Spray the paper (NOT the styrofoam!) with water to make it slightly damp. Placing a wet paper towel on your paper for a few seconds will also work. You can experiment with levels of dampness. The wetter the paper, the more vibrant and less clear your final design will be.

### Finally, put it all together!

7. Place your styrofoam shape, colored side down, on the damp paper.
8. With one hand, hold the edges of your styrofoam shape to keep it from moving. At the same time, with your other hand use the handle of your scissors to rub the back of the styrofoam. If you rub a lot your picture will be more colorful.
9. Carefully lift up the styrofoam shape to see your print.
10. Color your styrofoam shape again. You can use the same colors or different colors. Make another print on the same page by repeating steps 7, 8 & 9. You might have to wet the paper (Not the styrofoam!) again.
11. **Admire your print!**