**LET’S MAKE A RELIEF PRINT!**

Relief printing is a kind of printing in which a block of wood, linoleum, or some other material’s surface is carved so that an image can be printed from it. Ink or paint is added to the uncarved areas then the whole block or plate, is pressed onto paper. Since the image transfers from the block or plate to the paper in reverse, all numbers and letters must be carved backwards.

Did you know that you probably have all the tools you need to make a relief print at home? Ask an adult to help you.

**GATHER YOUR MATERIALS:**
- Styrofoam plate
- Paintbrush
- Rolling pin
- Pencil or pen
- Piece of white paper
- Paint (One color)
- Scissors

**1.** Use scissors to cut a rectangle out of a styrofoam plate. This will be referred to as your “printing plate.”

**2.** Using a pen or pencil, write your initials by creating an indentation into the surface of your printing plate. Make sure to write the letters backwards!

**3.** Squeeze a small dot of paint onto a scrap piece of paper or Styrofoam.

**4.** Use a paintbrush to apply one solid coat of paint onto the printing plate with your initials. Use only as much paint as you need so the paint does not get into the initials.

**5.** Carefully lay the white piece of paper on top of your printing plate and use the rolling pin to evenly press the printing plate onto the paper.

**6.** Gently lift one corner of your paper to reveal your final print. You have created a terrific relief print!