

## Create a Rookery — Rubber Stamp Making

### OBJECTIVE

Students will learn the structure of a rookery through art. Make rubber stamps of the components of a rookery. Create pictures of the rookeries at different times of the year using the stamps.

### TIME REQUIRED

50 minutes

### BACKGROUND

The rookery structure changes throughout the season. First males arrive, then females arrive, pups are born, males leave, pups leave, and finally the females leave. Through art, students can visualize the changes on the rookery between June and November. The different behavior of males and females is shown through their distribution on the rookery. See diagrams of rookery structure in the Teacher Key.

### NOTE

This art project can be adapted for all age levels. Students as young as five are able to sketch basic images of seals, grass, rocks, clouds, and water, which can be cut out by older students or adults. The older the students, the more complex the final image can be.

### MATERIALS

- #2 pencils
- 3-inch x 3-inch Post-its
- Soft-Kut rubber (size of a square post-it note) for each student; can be purchased in a 12 x 18-inch mat and cut to size
- paper plates – for paint
- sponges – 1-inch x 1-inch cubes for painting
- acrylic paint
- stamp pads (washable ink) – various colors
- linoleum cutters – various size blades, e.g. #1 liner, #2 V-gouge, #3 large line, #4 U-gouge
- paper to print on – good variety of colors and textures, but copy paper will work. Fabric can also be used instead of paper.
- wipes – for hands
- newspaper – to cover painting surfaces
- table covering paper
- 2-inch or 3-inch paint brayer (roller)

### PROCEDURES (See illustrations below)

1. Sketch on post-it; have each student pick one component of the rookery for each Soft-Kut rubber block (make sure all components of the rookery are represented, males, females, pups, rocks, waves, grass, clouds...)
2. Put Post-it on soft cut rubber with the image touching the rubber. The student should be looking at the blank side of the Post-it.
3. Transfer image to Soft-Kut rubber by gently rubbing the blank side of the Post-it with your hand or by rolling a pencil over the Post-it.
4. Cut image into rubber using linoleum cutters.
  - a. Don't cut too deep
  - b. Cut what you don't want to show up.
  - c. Trace around objects
5. Spread small amount of paint on paper plate.
6. Lightly roll paint onto brayer/roller.
7. Once roller is covered with light coating, gently roll paint onto the soft rubber.
8. Invert soft rubber cutout onto paper or fabric.
9. Gently rub back of cutout to transfer paint to paper or fabric.
10. Allow paint to dry.
11. Wash cutout and try with other colors.
12. Create four rookery scenes that represent the changes over one breeding season.

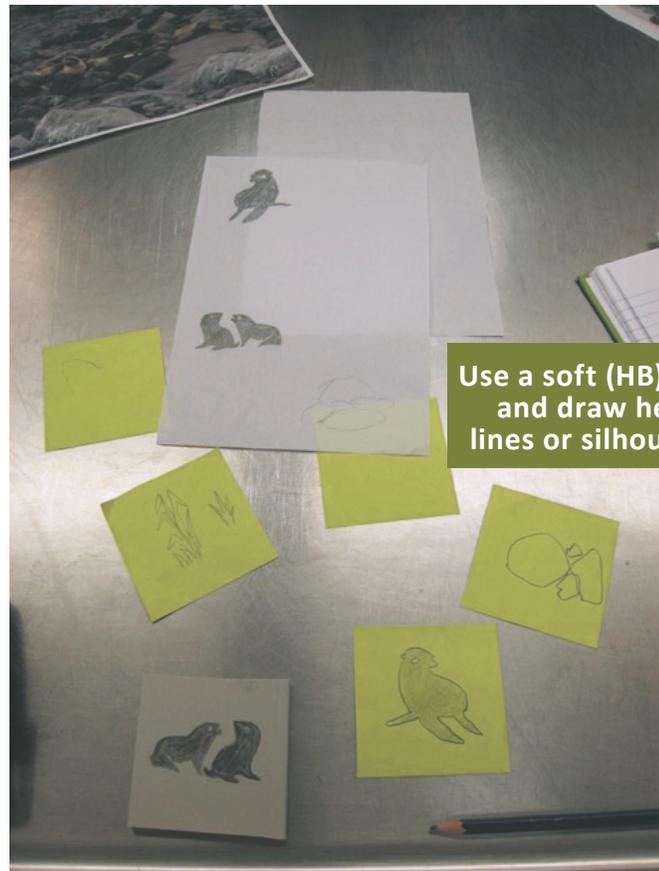
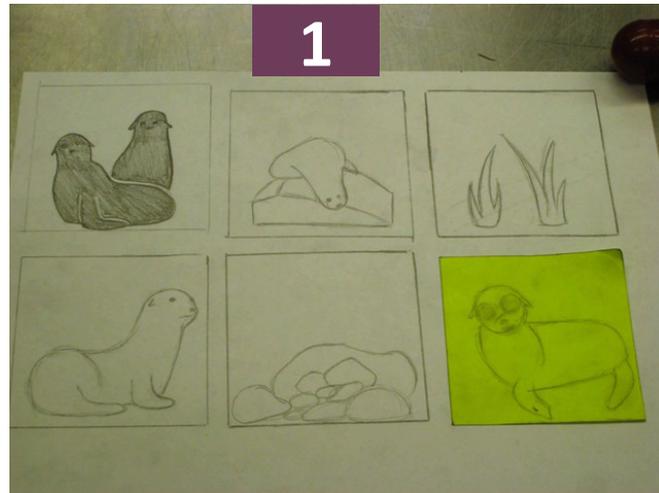
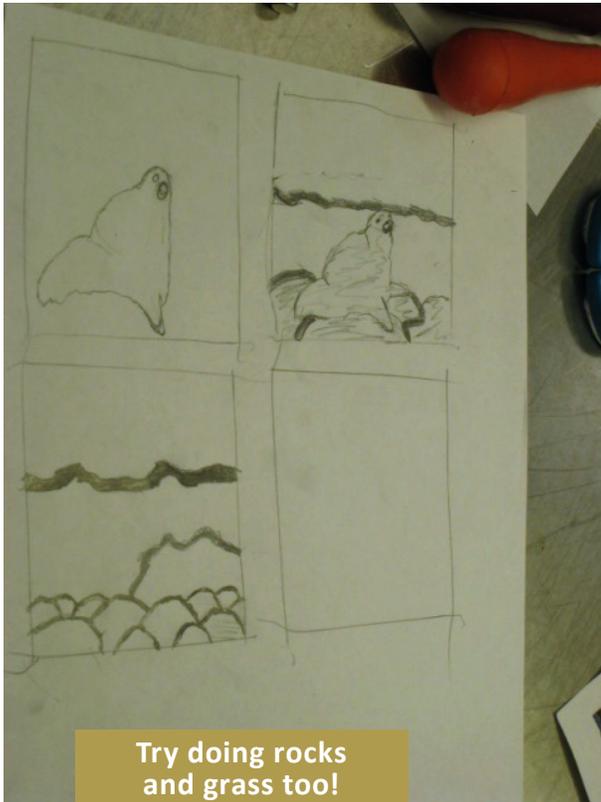
### DISCUSSION

- How does the rookery change over the summer?
- Discuss other seasonal cycles (e.g. birds, deciduous trees, gray whales).
- Many other animals migrate to Alaska for the summer. Research some of the other animals.

Creata Rookery activity was developed with Seattle artist Liz Haven.

## ACTIVITY 3.3

### Create a Rookery with rubber stamps!



1. Sketch a picture on a post-it note
2. Put post-it face-down on rubber square.
3. Transfer image to rubber square by rubbing the the back of the post-it.

Outlines and simple shapes are easiest.





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Cut the area around your design (cut what you don't want to show).

4. Cut image into rubber, using linoleum cutters.
5. Spread small amount of paint on paper plate.
6. Lightly coat roller with paint.
7. Gently roll paint onto rubber stamp.
8. Place rubber stamp onto paper face down.
9. Rub back of stamp to transfer paint.



5-6



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Note: paint only on raised image.

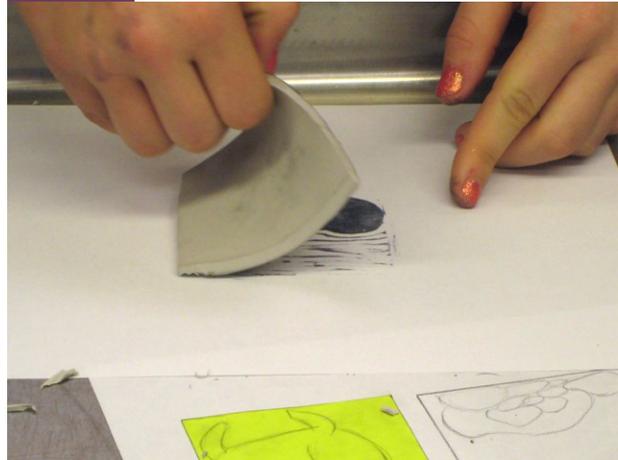
If you push too hard on the roller the paint will transfer to the areas around the image that you want to be paint free.



8-9

10. Look at your picture! Allow paint to dry.
11. Wash rubber stamp (with wipes or wet paper towel) and try other colors.
12. Combine stamps to make a picture.
13. Try different paper and ink colors!

10



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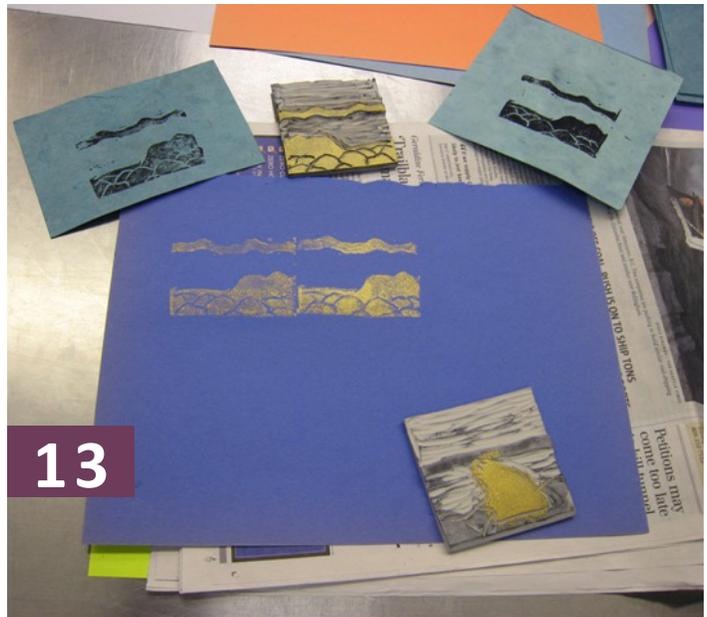
Try using two colors on the same stamp.

12



Make a landscape by repeating a scenery stamp.

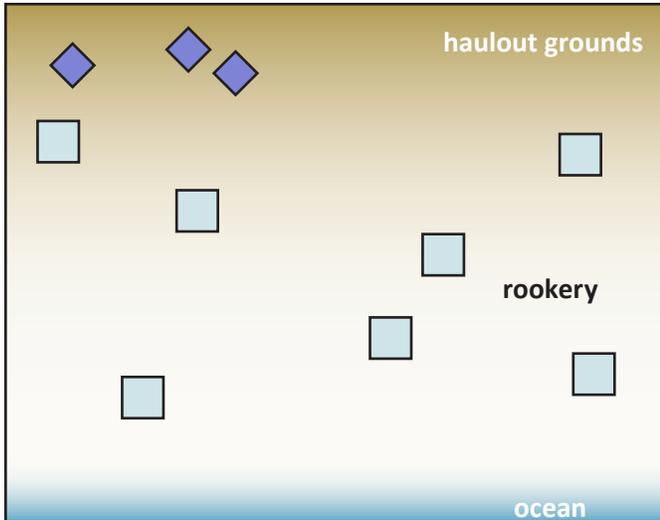
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**ACTIVITY 3.3**

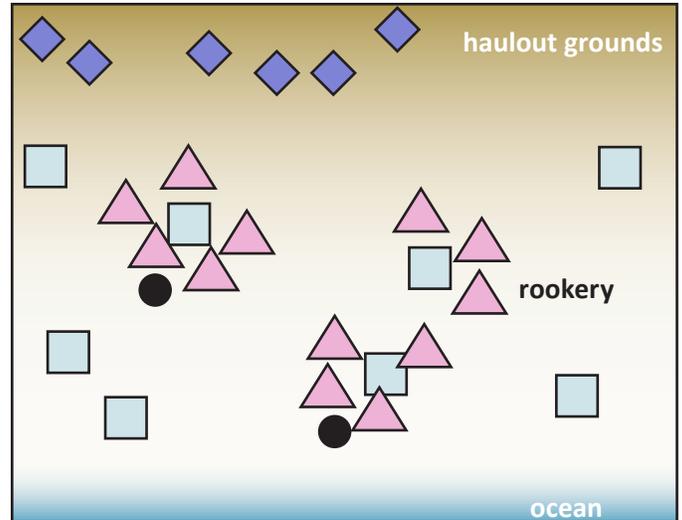
**TEACHER KEY**

**Create a Rookery**



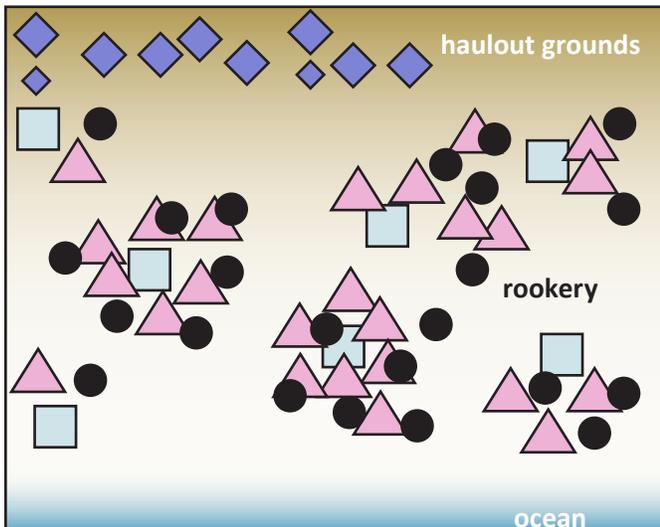
**Early to mid-May**

- adult males on territories
- males are spaced out (they defend area around them)
- no females at rookery yet
- older juvenile males arrive at haulout grounds



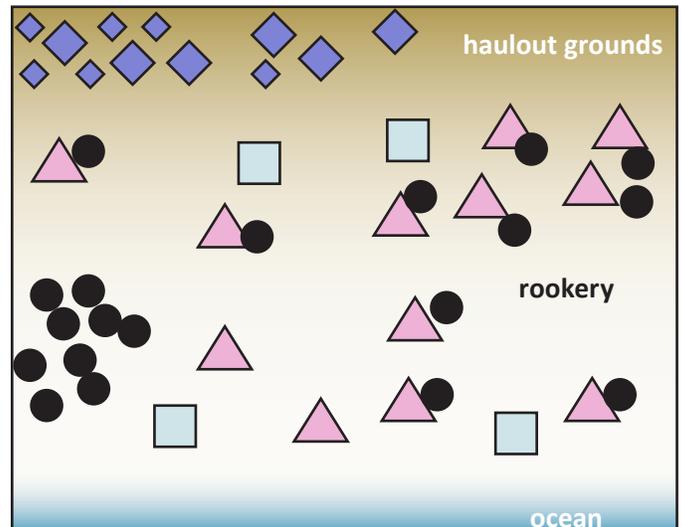
**Late-June**

- adult females begin to arrive at rookery and have pups within two to three days.
- females gather in territories
- a few males with central territories have most females
- some males only have a few females, over half have none



**Mid-July**

- more adult females arrive at rookery
- females have pups a few days after they arrive at rookery (one pup/female)
- females stay with pups for about a week, then begin to alternate feeding trips at sea with visits ashore to nurse pup
- Younger juvenile males arriving at the haulout grounds



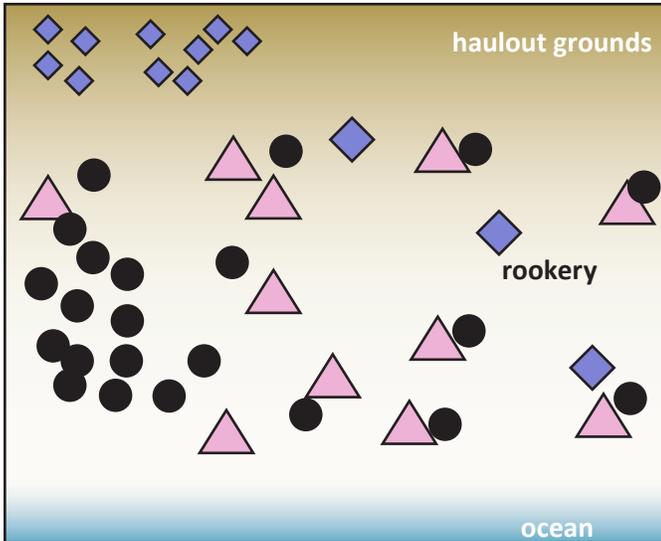
**August**

- all females are coming and going from rookery; some pups are nursing
- pups whose mothers are feeding at sea gather in "pup wads" (big groups of pups)
- adult males leave rookery in mid to late August
- juvenile males gather at haulout grounds at the edge of the rookery



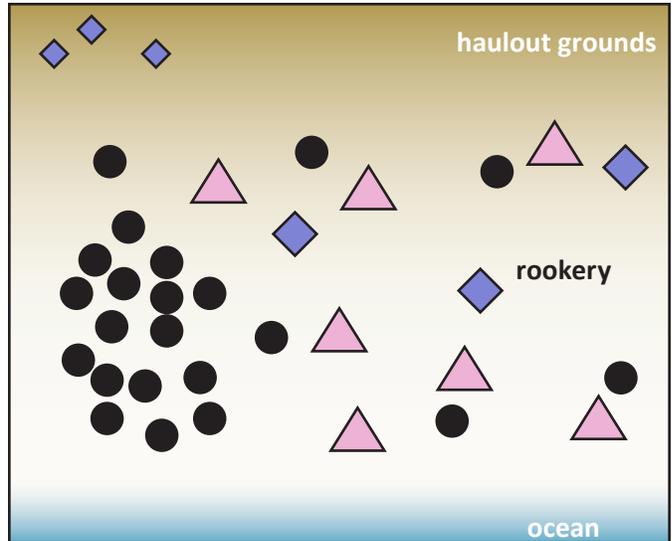
**ACTIVITY 3.3** **TEACHER KEY**

Create a Rookery



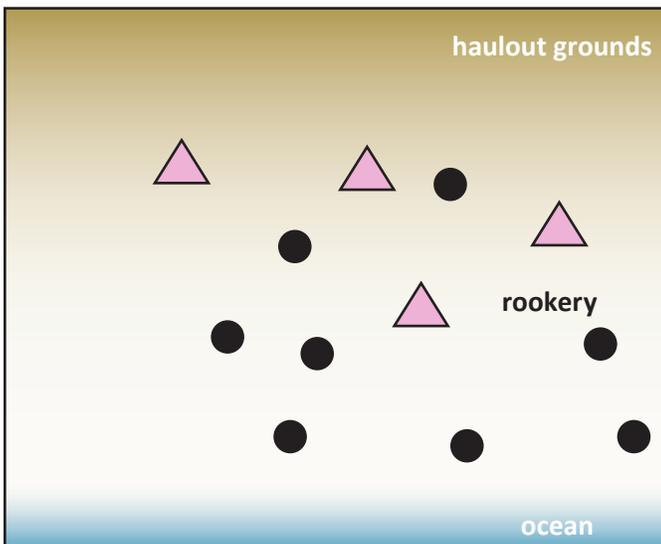
**September**

- females nursing pups, returning to and leaving the rookery
- pups are in “pup wads”
- younger juveniles are at haulout grounds
- older juvenile males are at the rookery practicing for the next breeding season



**Late October**

- females without pups begin to leave rookery
- pups are in “pup wads”
- older juvenile males begin to leave the rookery



**November-December**

- pups depart while their mothers are feeding at sea
- females leave rookery after their pup leaves
- juveniles leave rookery

