

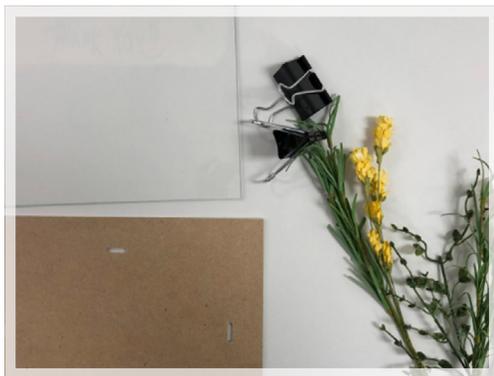
HOW TO CREATE A CYANOTYPE



There are two school accessible ways to create cyanotypes in the classroom. You can purchase pre-coated cyanotype paper or a cyanotype chemical kit from places such as Amazon and Freestyle Photographic Supplies. Please note that "Sun Print" paper will not produce as high quality images as the products labeled as "cyanotype."

IF USING A CYANOTYPE CHEMICAL KIT

You will need to mix the chemicals together in low light according to directions. Coat heavy white paper such as watercolor paper with the chemical and let the paper dry in a dark room. This may take a few hours and would best be done the day before the lesson. When the paper is dry, it is LIGHT SENSITIVE. It needs to be placed in a light proof black bag to not expose it to light. You can buy these bags from a darkroom photo supplier.



If you have a darkroom, you can use the contact glass for printing the cyanotypes. Inexpensive clip frames work well too. I have swapped out the clips for large binder clips for quicker assembly.

Students need to decide on how their objects will be arranged BEFORE they get out the sensitized paper. Give them time to arrange their composition before getting out the cyanotype paper.



When students know what composition they want to create, the lights of the classroom need to be turned off. Any light on the paper will start the exposure process.

They will need to open their clip frame (or contact glass system), place the sensitized paper (chemical side up) on the back of the frame, place their flat objects on the paper, place the glass on top, and then clip the whole system together. (Note: The clip will show up in the print if it covers the sensitized paper). Bulky objects can be placed on top of the glass.



Students need to carefully walk their frame outside and set it in the sun without any shadows covering it. Exposures time vary anywhere from 5 minutes to an hour, so it is a good idea to test the time out BEFORE the students participate in the lesson.

When the exposure time is up, students need to unclip their frame and place the cyanotype paper into a bath of water for about five minutes. They can gently rock the tray to remove any leftover chemical on the paper. When thoroughly washed, the prints can go on the drying rack. They are no longer sensitive to light.



Optional: You can print negatives onto OHP film and use it to print onto the paper.

Optional: Hydrogen peroxide can be sprayed on the print after washing to deepen the blue

Optional: After exposing and washing, prints can be placed in a bath of tea to turn sepia.