Positive Space - Area of a relief print that has been left uncut and therefore prints black.

Negative Space - Area of a relief print that has been carved away and stays the color of the paper when printed.

Positive outline of bird, negative background.

Positive background and details, negative interior of bird.

Positive background, negative outline of bird.

Positive interior of bird, negative background and details.

When planning a relief print it is important to plan where the positive and negative space will go. This will need to be decided upon before cutting away any linoleum. Consider the options above when making a decision about your relief print.