



Shibori Pillow

Grade Level: 7th Grade

Art Content Standard: Benchmark: Historical, Cultural and Social Contexts
Create a visual product that reflects current, cultural influences.
Creative Expression and Communication: Apply the principles of design to construct a three-dimensional piece of artwork.
Use a variety of sources to generate original ideas for art making.
Analyzing and Responding: Use appropriate vocabulary to explain how techniques, material and methods used by artists affect what the artwork communicates.

Objectives: Students will gain knowledge of the Japanese art of Shibori.
Students will explore Shibori techniques.
Students will create a pillow using Shibori design and contrasting fabric.

Vocabulary/ Concepts: Itchiku Kubota/ Shibori Visuals
Shibori
Kanoko Shibori
Mura Shibori
Kumo Shibori
Nui Shibori
Arashi Shibori
Tie-dye

Background/ Key Ideas: The lesson begins with a history of Shibori and defining different techniques used. Examples and visuals are shared with students for better understanding and inspiration. Shibori is the Japanese term for several methods of dyeing cloth with a pattern by binding, stitching, folding, twisting, or compressing it. In the West, some of these methods are known as tie-dye.

Kanoko Shibori is what we think of in our culture as tie-dye. Binding certain sections of cloth to achieve a desired pattern. In the West, rubber bands are often used. Shibori requires the use of thread.

Muira Shibori is known as looped binding. Using a hooked needle and plucking sections of the cloth, wrapping a thread around the section twice, results in a water-like design. This technique is often used because there is no knot and it's very easy to bind and unbind.

Kumo Shibori is a pleated and bound resist. The cloth is pleated evenly and finely then bound in close sections. The result is a specific spider-like design.

Nui Shibori includes a simple running stitch which is pulled tight to gather the cloth. The thread must be pulled very tightly and knotted for this technique to work. This technique is more time consuming; however, it allows for greater control and variety of pattern.

Arashi Shibori, also known as pole-wrapping, requires the fabric to be wrapped on the diagonal around a pole. The cloth is bound by wrapping thread up and down the pole, which results in a pleated fabric with a diagonal design. Arashi comes from the Japanese word for storm and the resulting patterns suggest the driving rain of a heavy storm.

Materials:

- Paper
- Pencil
- 9" x 9" white cotton/natural fiber material
- 9" x 9" colored satin material
- Cool water fabric dyes
- Paint brushes
- Heavy thread and string
- Dowel rods
- Needle
- Thread
- Fiber fill
- Bowls
- Newspaper
- Towels
- Plastic table cloths

Procedure: Day 1: Teacher will talk about the history of Shibori, define Shibori, define Shibori techniques, show visuals of this art style, and demonstrate different Shibori techniques.
Day 2: Students will explore the various Shibori techniques. Create preliminary sketches for final pillow top design.
Day 3: Student studio performance.
Day 4: Student studio performance.
Day 5: Student studio performance and class critique.

Assessment: Students will create a pillow using no more than three Shibori techniques on top and solid satin on back. Students will be able to describe the technique used and identify their characteristics. Students use of color, composition, and craftsmanship will be included in the assessment.

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