



Shibori: Japanese Tie-Dyeing

Grade Level: 7th Grade (can be adapted to other grade levels)

Art Content Standard: Historical , Cultural and Social Contexts: Indicator 1
Creative Expression and Communication: Indicators
2,3,5 & 7
Analyzing and Responding: Indicators 1 & 2
Connection, Relationships and Applications:
Indicator 3

Vocabulary/ Concepts: Shibori- A form of tie-dyeing which originates in Japan.
Areas of fabric are folded, wrapped, twisted or
pleated in special ways and then secured
with string. The fabric is then dyed.
Arashi- A term applied to all shibori techniques which
are carried out on a tube or length of wood.
Mandala- A symbol from Asiatic art in which the pattern
always develops outwards from the center of the
fabric.
Itajime- A folding and pressing technique used in
shibori.
Concertina- An accordion type fold.
Apex-Top of triangle.

Background/ Key Ideas: The word shibori comes from the Japanese word root shiboru (to wring, squeeze, press). It is a form of tie-dyeing which originates in Japan. Areas of fabric are folded, wrapped, twisted, or pleated in special ways and then secured with a string. The fabric is then dyed. Shibori is related to the tradition of indigo dyeing which is known in Europe, Sweden, Denmark, Hungary and Slovakia.

Shibori was and is well known and popular in Japan. It is closely associated with Japanese culture. Shibori is being taught in art colleges in Japan to so the old art traditions are not forgotten.

Materials: Silk or natural fiber material
Fabric dye or textile paint
Cotton string
Scissors
Pipettes or squeeze bottles
Wooden dowel (8 -10" long and 1- 1.5" wide)
Hot plate
Steam iron
Sauce pan with steaming basket
Aluminum foil
Small wooden boards
Rubber gloves
Plastic bowls
Tarps or plastic
Old towels

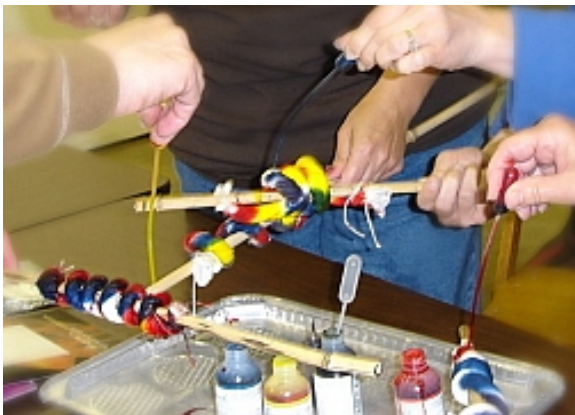
Procedure:



Arashi:

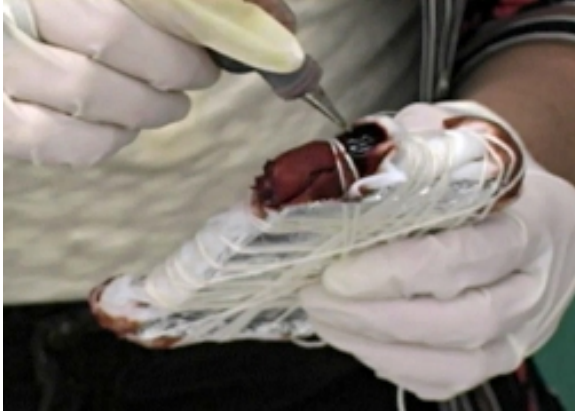
1. Immerse fabric in water and wring it out well. With the help of another person, carefully fold it lengthwise, pull the fabric taut and then twist it to form a sturdy cord. (Silk does not need to be wet for this step).

2. Wrap the cord of fabric around the wooden dowel and fasten it at both ends with cotton string.



3. Use a pipette or squeeze bottle to apply fabric paint or dye along the length of the dowel. You may also apply dyes around the dowel depending on the desired effect.

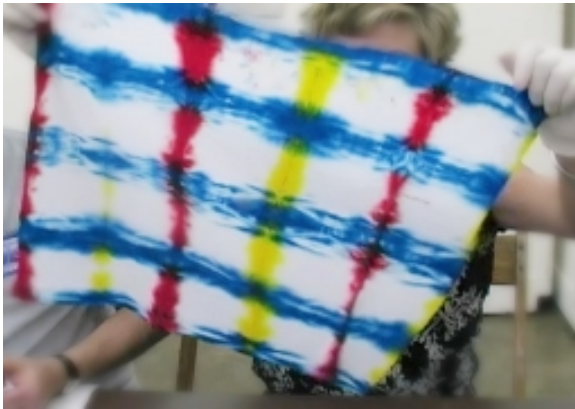
4. If using dye, steam set by laying the dyed roll in steaming basket, and cover the pot with aluminum foil and steam for twenty minutes. Rinse the roll in water, squeeze dry, uncoil, and heat set with an iron.



Itajime:

1. Fold a large square of fabric into concertina folds to create a small square slightly larger than your wooden shapes.

2. Cover the shapes with aluminum foil and place the fabric and secure it in place with string.



3. Wind string around the boards catching all the fabric and secure it in place with string.

4. Immerse fabric in dye (bring to boil if using dye) or textile paint for about 10 minutes. Rinse thoroughly, undo the string and iron the fabric.

Mandala:

1. Iron the square of fabric in half and then in half again to form a smaller square.

2. Once you have a smaller square, fold it into a triangle. Make sure the folded center of the fabric is at the apex of the triangle.

3. Keep the folded center of the fabric at the apex and fold again to make a long, narrow triangle. Iron the folds.

4. Place the triangle of fabric on a work surface with the tip pointing to the right. Fold the triangle into a witches staircase. To make this, place your left hand across the fabric, with your thumb and forefinger forming a right angle. Now fold the tip of the triangle up over your hand. Turn the fabric over and repeat. Turn it over and repeat once more.

5. Hold the folded fabric in both hands and wrap it around your index and middle fingers of one hand.

6. Slowly pull out your fingers. As you do so, twist the rest of the tips and then wrap it around the fabric to form a ball.

7. Wind string around the ball of fabric to secure it.

8. Use a pipette or squeeze bottle to apply between 3 – 5 colors to the ball.
9. Steam fix if using dye. Heat set textile paint. Dye remaining fabric.
10. Unfold the fabric to reveal mandala.

Assessment: Students will create a square of each technique and be able to identify the type of technique used. Students will verbally be able to describe characteristics of each type of technique and how these identifying characteristics were created.

Enrichment Activities: Students can create quilt squares of each type of techniques and combine them to make a quilt or pillow cover.

Resources (Books, websites,etc.): Moller, Elfriede. *Shibori The art of fabric tying, folding, pleating and dyeing*. Great Britain, Search P, 1999.

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