

Tie Dye Vessel

Japanese Shibori (art + social studies)

The ancient Japanese tradition of textile painting known as Shibori entails many techniques and processes including the gathering, wrapping and binding methods that we call "tie-dye" today. Traditional Shibori treats fabric as a 3-dimensional form rather than a flat cloth and is characterized by soft or blurry-edged patterns. Kimonos produced with this hand-dyed method can sometimes take a year to complete and are highly treasured.

This 2-part lesson plan involves painting and draping stiffened fabric over an existing form. Students will use their own hand-painted fabric to create a 3-dimensional, sculptural piece. Silk is a traditional Japanese fabric that works well for this project because:

- 1) Paint will flow easily through silk and dry quickly.
- 2) The weightless qualities of silk allow it to be formed and sculpted in many beautiful ways.
- 3) Silk is translucent, even when painted and formed, so there will be a natural luminosity caused by light passing through the vessel, keeping the colors bright and defining the folds of the drapery.

Tie-dyeing with Dye-na-flow paint is fun and easy on silk. It doesn't need special additives or overnight dry time. A quick pass with an iron will heat-set the colors so they don't run together with the fabric medium.

Grade Levels 7-12

Objectives

- Students will learn to employ a basic fabric painting technique by gathering and binding, then applying flowable colors
- Students will use color as an element of fabric design, and apply the principles of form and movement to create 3-dimensional sculpture
- Students will connect contemporary examples of tie-dye to the historical process of Japanese Shibori

Preparation

1. Cut silk scarves. Edges do not have to be perfectly straight or even. Determine amount based on glassware to be covered, using this method:
 - Place glassware in center of large silk scarf. Gather silk loosely up around the sides.
 - Twist the silk over the top, then untwist and remove the glassware.



Materials

Silk Scarves (63000-), use method listed under "Preparation" to determine amount needed

Clear Glassware, find at discount stores, resale, garage sales, etc.

Golden® GAC 400 Fabric Stiffening Medium (00628-4006), 16-oz bottle, share across classroom

Jacquard® Dye-Na-Flow® Fabric Colors, 8-oz bottles, recommend one of each color to share across classroom:
Sun Yellow (01218-4910)
Azure Blue (01218-5910)
Magenta (01218-3040)
Plastibands (61411-1002)

Droppers (04958-0000), set of five, need one per student

Fiskars® School/Craft Scissors (57011-1005), need one per student

Kwik-Cover™ Tablecloth (04500-)

Iron with "Silk" setting

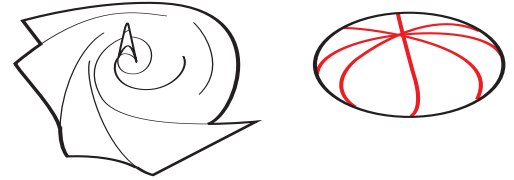
Foam plates, small bowl for distributing medium

Preparation, continued

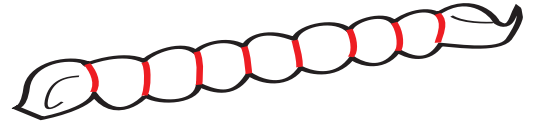
- The twist marks will still be evident in the fabric. Measure the area. This will be approximately the amount of silk needed for each piece.

Process

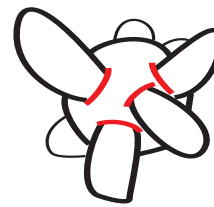
1. **PREPARE SILK FOR TIE DYE** - Have students fold and tie silk tightly with Plastibands, using one of the methods listed at right. The red lines indicate the plastic bands.
2. **APPLY COLOR** - Plan the sequence of color. Begin with the lightest color (yellow). Using droppers apply Dye-Na-Flow, working the eyedropper tip down between the folds of the fabric and thoroughly saturating the area. Rinse dropper by absorbing clean water from a cup, dispensing the color, then absorbing water again. Repeat with Magenta and follow with Blue. Place silk on foam plate and allow to penetrate silk for at least 20-30 minutes (could be left overnight or longer).
3. **REMOVE BANDS** - use scissors to clip off bands, unroll silk. Hang up on a clothesline to dry - it won't take long.
4. **HEAT SET** - with iron on "silk" setting, iron both sides of the silk to remove wrinkles and set color
5. **CUT FABRIC** - cutting the silk into smaller pieces will allow for more shaping of fabric on the form. If you wish for the fabric to drape in a flowing manner, cut larger pieces. If you wish for more texture and dimension, cut smaller pieces. For a variety of textures, cut a variety of sizes.
6. **APPLY MEDIUM** - dispense GAC 400 medium into butter-tub size mixing bowls, add silk pieces. Using fingers, thoroughly mix until fabric is saturated with medium. With fingers, squeegee excess medium back into the bowl.
7. **COVER FORM** - piece by piece, cover glassware with silk, turning as each piece is applied. Encourage students to bend, fold, twist, bunch, crinkle, and smooth fabric for a variety of textures. Some areas of glass may be left uncovered, if desired. Don't try to cover the base. Wash up with soap and water.
8. **ALLOW TO DRY** - the GAC 400 medium will be dry in the lightest areas within an hour. Thicker areas of fabric will take up to 4 hours to dry. Stiffened fabric will have a "crisp" feel, but will have some "give" to it, so it won't crack or break off



Twist from center, tie into "pie" wedges - produces spiral pattern



Roll and tie off in sections - produces stripes



Random twisting and tying - produces a random pattern

National Standards:

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

- **5-8** Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques and processes to enhance communication of their experience and ideas.

- **9-12** Students apply media, techniques and processes with sufficient skill, confidence and sensitivity that their intentions are carried out in their artworks

Content Standard #4 — Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and culture

- **5-8** Students know and compare the characteristics of artworks in various eras and cultures

- **9-12** Students analyze relationships of works of art to one another in terms of history, aesthetics and culture, justifying conclusions made in the analysis and using such conclusions to inform their own art making.

