

# Fabric-ation...Layers of Color and Design

Lesson Plan and Artwork by Connie Akers,  
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Grades 9-12  
Cross-Curricular-Art & Social Studies  
Multicultural

## Description:

The dyeing and printing of fabric is an ancient art dating from prehistoric time. Every culture where fabric was created soon developed ways of decorating it with colors. The dyes were originally from natural sources such as plant materials, insects, tree bark and ground roots. As fabric design evolved further, designs were put on the surface with tools such as brushes or printing stamps. The designs were often based on the flora and fauna of the region or on the universal symbols of circle, square, triangle, spiral and cross. Fabric is used historically for body covering as well as for home décor. Long before the introduction of mechanical methods of decorating, it was all done by hand. This project will give students the opportunity to explore the processes and methods of fabric design.

## Objectives:

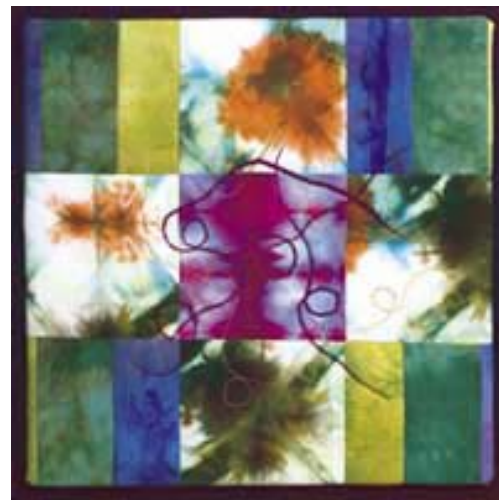
- Students will explore art history as it relates to textile design.
- Students will compare cultural influences and see similarities between different cultures.
- Students will experiment with materials for the designing and decoration of fabric.

## Materials:

Bleached Fine Weave Muslin, 38" wide, 5-Yard Piece (406382-705)  
Jacquard Procion MX Dye Classroom pack (443996-705)  
Latex-Free Gloves, Box of 100, Medium (404540-705)  
Disposable Dust Masks (248090-705)  
Jacquard Textile Paints, Traditional (458246-705)  
Jacquard Lumiere Paint Set (402891-705)  
Pattern Blocks Stamps Classroom Pack (460508-705)  
Rayon Color Twist Topstitching Thread, 24-Color Set (246452-705)

## Resources:

International Design Library, Set of 8 Books, Set 1 (443792-705)  
International Design Library, Set of 8 Books, Set 2 (443795-705)  
How to Paint with Jacquard (Book) (405740-705)



## Directions:

1. Introduce the students to hand-dyed and decorated fabrics from various cultures or tie the project to one particular culture such as Japanese or Adrinka. Review design with emphasis on simple shapes, repetition and color. Students should have experience with patterns and designs on paper before moving to cloth.
2. Dyeing: Use the Jacquard package directions for low-water immersion dyeing. Take careful note of safety instructions. Use various methods such as clamping or tying with rubber bands and string for interesting effects. Allow each student about ½ to 1 yard of fabric.
3. Fabric may be overdyed - color upon color, for interesting variations.
4. After dyeing, the fabric should be ironed and the stamped designs added.
5. The stamped designs can be further enhanced with stitching and beading.
6. The fabric can be used for collage, quilts, pillows, scarves, bags, and appliqués to existing clothing.

## National Standards:

Content Standard #1: Understanding and applying, media, techniques and processes.

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

Grades 9-12, Proficient: Students conceive and create works of visual art that demonstrate an understanding of how communication of their ideas relates to the media, techniques and processes they use.

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

Grades 5-8: Students describe and place a variety of art objects in historical and cultural contexts. Students analyze, describe and demonstrate how factors of time and place (such as climate, resources, ideas and technology) influence visual characteristics that give meaning and value to a work of art.

Grades 9-12, Proficient: 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.