

Required materials/supplies

One 4"x 6" wooden block per student, rubber bands, one piece of 8"x12" white fabric per student, Elmer's liquid school glue, dye

Vocabulary

Japan

Textile

Kimono

Resist dyeing

Kyokechi-itajime

Symmetrical balance

Heian period

Procedure

Day 1:

1. Introduce the students to Japanese textiles by showing them images of the *kyokechi* dyeing technique and examples of types of *kimono*.
2. Introduce the Heian period and discuss clothing and clothing conventions of the time: 12 layers of clothing for women; a lady could display her clothing from her carriage or through blinds or curtains to attract men; clothing denoted social status for women. Make a connection to the way clothing is a social indicator for Americans today and ask them about their experience in school.
3. Show the students the video of the process of *kyokechi* dyeing.
4. Discuss how *kimono* are dyed and how specific patterns and colors are chosen.
5. Tell the students about the Japanese *kyokechi* dyeing technique: symmetrical images, block dyeing technique, and resist dyeing
6. Give each student a piece of 8"x 12" fabric and have them create a symmetrical pattern on the fabric using Elmer's liquid school glue. Allow these to dry for at least 24 hours.

Day 2:

1. Hand back each student's piece of fabric and give them each a wooden block. Show them how to fold their fabric in half twice, and then wrap the rubber bands around the fabric to secure it around the block. Younger elementary students will probably need assistance.
2. Place a large bowl with dye at each table and have the students, one at a time, dip the four corners of their block into the dye. Allow these to dry for at least 24 hours. The area where the glue has been put will resist the dye.

Day 3:

1. Hand back each student's block. Have them remove the rubber bands and unfold their fabric. The fabric will need to be rinsed in the sink.
2. Each student will share with the class his or her *kyokechi* dyed fabric telling about their patterns and symmetrical balance and what they learned about Japanese culture.

Assessment/evaluation

1. Students will be assessed on their focus and participation during the discussion about the Heian period and types of *kimono* on Day 1.
2. Students will be assessed on their completion of the *kyokechi* dyed fabric on days 1 and 2 and their behavior during the creation process.
3. Students will be assessed on their comments during the discussion of patterns and symmetry and their grasp of this aspect of Japanese culture.