

DYEING FABRIC WITH NATURAL MATERIALS BY THE TEXTILE ARTS CENTER

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Dye Materials: Tumeric powder, onion skins, tea bags (chamomile, black tea, hibiscus), carrot tops, coffee grounds, flower petals, leaves, rusty objects
- Silk or Cotton fabric or old clothes
- String/yarn/rubber bands/popsicle sticks or twigs
- Pot
- Vegetable steamer (optional)

STEP 1:

Lay the fabric flat and place your selected dye materials on it. You can decide how much to use, knowing that wherever you are placing a dye material you'll get a stain of color. Tumeric will yield yellow, onion skins orange and hibiscus red. Play and experiment with different materials to discover their color potential.

STEP 2:

Roll the fabric with the dye materials tightly to create a bundle and secure it with string/yarn or rubber bands. You can also fold the fabric or use popsicle sticks to hold it. The idea is to make sure your dye materials are pressed tightly against the fabric.

STEP 3:

Using a pot with a vegetable steamer, bring water to a boil. Wet your fabric bundle and place it on the vegetable steamer. Let the bundle steam for about an hour, periodically checking to make sure the pot doesn't run out of water. If you don't have a vegetable steamer, alternatively simmer the bundles in water for 30 minutes.

STEP 4:

After one hour, turn off the heat and let the bundle cool down. Once cooled, remove the bundle and unroll. Discard the dye materials and rinse the fabric in cold water. Hang to dry and admire the results!

