

The Japanese Art of Hapa zome

A fun art activity which involves pounding plants to release their natural pigments into cloth

All

Art and Design



Background

Hapa-zome is a Japanese term meaning 'leaf-dye.' It provides a great context for pupils to investigate the natural world using a range of materials from nature and then express themselves creatively through this traditional art and design technique.

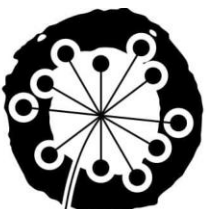
It could also be used: to support relevant **geography** or **history** topic work; as the basis of a **science investigation** into fabric absorbency or natural dyes or pupils could even be challenged to incorporate **symmetry** within their composition.

Equipment

- Mallets, rolling pins or even just hand-sized rocks
- Cotton fabric such as calico, cut up bed sheet or muslin. Kitchen roll also works.
- Various leaves, berries and flowers.

Activity

1. Collect a range of leaves, berries and flowers.
2. Position the natural matter as desired on a small piece of cotton fabric.
3. If creating a symmetrical image place the natural matter on one half so that the fabric can be folded over.
4. Or cover the natural matter with a second piece of fabric or kitchen roll.
5. Hammer all over the top layer of material until the dye can be seen seeping through.
6. Remove the top layer and the plant matter to enjoy the resultant imprint on the fabric.



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