MAP
Museum of Art & Photography

DIY GUIDE:

Make A Tie-Dye Tee Shirt

Tie and dye is a resist dyeing technique. The process typically consists of tieing, folding, twisting, crumpling or pleating a fabric and then dying it, which produce different textures and patterns.

These manipulations prior to the application of dyeing, are called resists. This helps in preventing the dye from coloring the fabric partially, giving rise to the desired patterns. Here is a tie-dyed blouse from the MAP collection. Can you guess how many dyes are used in it's creation?*

Image: A choli or blouse with bandhani and leheriya details, Unknown Makers, 20th century.

Answer: There are four different dyes used in this blouse: Green, Pink, Red and Yellow. The white that you see is actually the un-dyed portion!

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Now let's make our own tie & dye tee shirt!

You will need:

- A plain white tee shirt (100% cotton works the best!)
- A bunch of rubber bands
- A tub or tray (make sure that it is big enough to hold your tee shirt)
- A paint brush or plastic squirt bottles
- Dyes - you can use regular fabric colours or make home-made dyes using fruits and vegetables. Check out our resource pack on Jamini Roy to know how to make your own dyes.
- A clear plastic bag

Step 1 First fill the tray or tub halfway with lukewarm water and dip your tee shirt in it. Squeeze out the excess water but make sure that the tee shirt is still a little wet.	**Step 2** Next, lay the tee shirt flat on your work table and keep your finger in the centre. Now turn it in an anti-clockwise motion. You will see the tee shirt developing spiral folds. You can also turn counter-clockwise if you prefer, it makes no difference really.
Step 3: Keep doing this motion till a point where you end up with a "pie-like" round shape. Now using your rubber bands, carefully slip them around the shirt to keep this shape intact.	**Step 4:** When you are ready, start colouring. You can directly squirt your dye onto the fabric or use the paint brush. Make sure that you dye both sides and have fun by colouring in any way you like!
Step 5: Once done with the colouring, let it dry for at least a day. During this time, you can put it inside a clear plastic bag like a zip lock to avoid any mess. You do not have to keep it in the sun, any dry place indoors should work.	**Step 6:** After a day, run your shirt under cold running water while removing the bands. Keep rinsing until the water runs clear (it may take a while!) And that's it! You now have a brand new tie-dye tee shirt!

Don't forget to take photographs of your creations and DM it to us on Instagram @mapbangalore. You can also email them to us at education@map-india.org

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