

# Be Creative Through Tie-Dye

Beginning Level

**Skills:**  
 Achieving Goals  
 Decision Making  
 Responsible Citizenship  
 Leadership  
 Positive Self Esteem



**Objectives:**  
 To learn dyeing techniques.  
 To learn about the history of tie-dyeing.  
 To experiment with creating designs using dye.

**Have you ever wanted to wear your own designed clothing? You can through the tie-dye project!**

**What is tie-dye?**

Tie-dye describes a pattern of color made by preventing the dye from reaching some areas of the fabric while dyeing others.

Folding, tyeing, stitching, crumpling or otherwise preparing the fabric inhibits the flow of the dye to some areas. Usually, most folding, scrunching & twisting is done starting with the wet shirt flat on a plastic covered table.



The pattern of the folds etc. and where the colors are squirted dictates the resulting design. With experience, the end result can be predicted and controlled to some extent, but surprise is part of what makes tie-dye an exciting and interesting art form - and there will be plenty of surprises.

**Where did tie-dye come from?**

Contrary to popular belief, tie-dyeing was not invented in 1960s America. Different forms of tie-dye have been practiced in India, Japan, and Africa for centuries. The earliest surviving examples, include pre-Columbian alpaca, found in Peru, and silk from fourth century Chinese tombs.

Indian Bandhani, one traditional form of tie-dyeing, began some 5000 years ago.

Japanese tie-dye is included among the many techniques of shibori, which has been used for many centuries to make different types of beautiful patterns on cloth used for elaborate kimonos.

Early dyes were extracted from roots, flowers, leaves, and berries. These include blackberries, lichen, safflower, marigold, onion, red cabbage, sage, and indigo. Although these dyes are still used today, synthetic dyes have been developed that are permanent, quick-setting, safe, easy to use, and are ensured by accurate formulas. As in ancient times, we still use natural fibers for tie-dyeing. Silks from China, cottons from Egypt, and rayon from Bali are still highly prized.

Many cultures still use tie-dye today to create beautiful fabrics and garments.

**Want to learn more??** Google: "History of Tie-Dye"

**Visit these sites:**

[http://thechinascoop.cn/20070818/Tie\\_Dyeing\\_Techniques\\_of\\_Bai\\_Ethnic\\_Group\\_9297.html](http://thechinascoop.cn/20070818/Tie_Dyeing_Techniques_of_Bai_Ethnic_Group_9297.html)  
<http://media.punjabilokvirsa.com/181102/Tie-Dye-> (and scroll down to view video)

**Now, gather your supplies and let your creative juices begin flowing!!!**

By: Sue Byrd, Professor, Fashion Merchandising, The University of Tennessee at Martin

**Supplies you will need:**

**Item you wish to dye.** The most common item is a t-shirt, but you can dye just about anything (shirt, pants, socks, handkerchief, pillowcase). Make sure item is at least 60% cotton.

**Rubber bands or string.**

**Apron or wear old clothes.**

**Disposable Aluminum Pan**

**Dye for clothing in different colors**

**Empty dish washing detergent bottles or spray containers**

**Marbles or Round Stones**

**What you can do with what you have learned?**

-Meet with younger 4-Her's and teach them about tie-dyeing and have them create their own tie-dye.

-Create a poster or PowerPoint with information about the history of tie-dye and share with others.

-Interact with a person from another country and learn more about their culture.

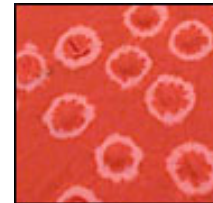
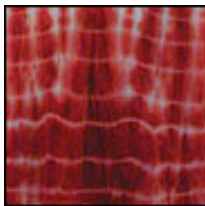
## Basic Steps to Tie-Dye

1. Before you dye your item, you should wash it to remove any sizing from the manufacturer or anything else that may have gotten on it.
2. Decide what sort of design you want your finished project to have.
3. Cover your work area so the dye doesn't stain it. Lay down a few large garbage bags and then put newspaper on top of that.
4. Lay your shirt or other item out flat first and then fold and tie as desired. Here are some examples:

"Lines" Use rubberbands at intervals

"Sunburst" Use marble and rubberbands

"Circles" One Marble and one rubberband



5. Prepare your dye as directed by the manufacturer. You should carefully follow all instructions. While preparing the dye and dyeing your item, you should wear rubber gloves to protect your hands from staining and the hot water.
6. Pretreat your item by dipping it in hot water.
7. Now you are ready to start dyeing. Fill empty dishwashing liquid bottles or empty spray containers with the color (s) of dye you are using. Hold your item over a large disposable aluminum pan. Squirt or spray the areas where you want the color.
8. Allow the dye to soak in for 15 minutes. Then rinse thoroughly, remove your rubberbands or string and rinse again.
9. Admire your creation!!!
10. Be careful washing your tie-dyed items! Most should always be washed in cold water. The first few times they are washed, they might bleed, so wash them with like colors or alone.

