Name: _____ Date: _____

Batik: Drawing with Wax Before the Dye

Circle group

Batik is a way to decorate cloth. It starts with wax, not color. It is linked with Indonesia, mostly the island of Java. People in other places use wax methods too. The wax is a shield. Dye cannot soak in where wax covers the cloth.

A maker starts with plain cloth. Hot wax is drawn on in lines and dots. One tool is a small copper cup with a thin spout. It is called a canting. It works like a pen for hot wax. Another tool is a copper stamp. It presses a pattern fast. The wax is hot, so grown-ups handle it with care.

Next, the cloth goes into a dye bath. Color soaks in where there is no wax. When the cloth dries, the maker adds more wax and dips it in a new color. Each round adds a layer. A cloth with many colors can take days or weeks.

At the end, hot water takes off the wax. The hidden shapes show the old color of the cloth. Often there are tiny cracks where dye crept through. No two cloths are the same.

Questions

1. What does the wax do?

_____

_____

2. What is a canting?

_____

_____

3. What is the stamp for?

_____

_____

4. How is the wax taken off at the end?

_____

_____

5. Why can a many-colored cloth take days or weeks?

_____

_____

6. Why are no two batik cloths the same?

_____

_____

Words to know

batik: a cloth art that uses wax to block dye
dye: a substance used to change the color of cloth
canting: a small tool with a spout used to draw hot wax
pattern: a design that repeats
layer: one coating or level on top of another

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Batik: Drawing with Wax Before the Dye

Triangle group

Batik is a way of decorating cloth that begins with wax instead of color. It is closely linked with Indonesia, especially the island of Java, though cloth makers in other parts of the world use wax-resist methods too. The wax acts as a shield. Wherever it covers the cloth, dye cannot soak in.

A batik maker starts with plain cloth. Melted wax is carefully drawn onto the cloth in lines and dots. One traditional tool is a small copper cup with a thin spout, called a canting. It works like a pen that holds hot wax. Another tool is a copper stamp, which presses a repeating pattern in many spots quickly. Because the wax is hot, grown-up workers handle it with great care.

Next, the whole cloth is dipped into a bath of dye. The color soaks into every part that the wax does not cover. When the cloth dries, the maker adds more wax in new places and dips the cloth in a second color. Each round of waxing and dyeing adds another layer, so a cloth with many colors can take days or even weeks to finish.

At the end, the wax is removed with hot water. The hidden shapes appear in the original color of the cloth, with the dye all around them. Often the pattern has small cracks where the dye crept through the wax, and many people love those fine veins because no two cloths come out exactly alike.

Questions

1. What does the wax do in the batik method?

_____

_____

2. What is a canting?

_____

_____

3. What is the stamp used for?

_____

_____

4. How is the wax finally removed?

_____

_____

5. Why can a many-colored batik take days or weeks to finish?

_____

_____

6. Why does no batik cloth come out exactly like another?

_____

_____

Words to know

batik: a cloth art that uses wax to block dye
dye: a substance used to change the color of cloth
canting: a small tool with a spout used to draw hot wax
pattern: a design that repeats
layer: one coating or level on top of another

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Batik: Drawing with Wax Before the Dye

Square group

Batik is a method of decorating cloth that begins with wax rather than with color. It is closely associated with Indonesia, particularly the island of Java, although cloth makers in other regions of the world also use wax-resist techniques. The wax functions as a shield, because dye cannot soak into any part of the cloth that the wax covers.

A batik maker begins with a length of plain cloth. Melted wax is then carefully drawn onto the surface in lines and dots. One traditional tool is a small copper cup with a thin spout, called a canting, which works somewhat like a pen that holds hot wax. Another tool is a copper stamp, which can press a repeating pattern in many places very quickly. Because the wax is hot, experienced adult workers handle it with great care.

Next, the entire cloth is dipped into a bath of dye, and the color soaks into every area that the wax does not protect. Once the cloth has dried, the maker applies more wax in new places and dips it into a second color. Each round of waxing and dyeing adds another layer, so a cloth with many colors can take days or even weeks to complete.

Finally, the wax is removed with hot water, and the hidden shapes appear in the original color of the cloth, surrounded by dye. The pattern often contains fine cracks where dye crept through the wax, and many admirers treasure these delicate veins because no two cloths ever turn out exactly alike.

Questions

1. What function does the wax serve in the batik method?

_____

_____

2. What is a canting, and how does it work?

_____

_____

3. What is the copper stamp used for?

_____

_____

4. How is the wax removed in the final step?

_____

_____

5. Why might a cloth with many colors take days or even weeks to finish?

_____

_____

6. Why does no batik cloth turn out exactly like another?

_____

_____

Words to know

batik: a cloth art that uses wax to block dye
dye: a substance used to change the color of cloth
canting: a small tool with a spout used to draw hot wax
pattern: a design that repeats
layer: one coating or level on top of another

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Batik: Drawing with Wax Before the Dye

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Batik: Drawing with Wax Before the Dye

Easier · 187 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.8

1. It is a shield, so dye cannot soak in where it covers the cloth.
2. A small copper cup with a thin spout that works like a pen for hot wax.
3. To press a pattern fast.
4. With hot water.
5. Each color needs another round of wax and dye.
6. Dye creeps through tiny cracks in the wax in different ways.

Triangle: Batik: Drawing with Wax Before the Dye

This passage · 246 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6

1. It acts as a shield so the dye cannot soak into the covered cloth.
2. A small copper cup with a thin spout that works like a pen for hot wax.
3. To press a repeating pattern in many spots quickly.
4. With hot water.
5. Each color needs a new round of waxing and dyeing.
6. Dye creeps through tiny cracks in the wax in different ways each time.

Square: Batik: Drawing with Wax Before the Dye

Harder · 256 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 9.2

1. It acts as a shield that keeps dye from soaking into the covered cloth.
2. A small copper cup with a thin spout that works like a pen holding hot wax.
3. Pressing a repeating pattern in many places very quickly.
4. With hot water.
5. Every color requires another round of waxing and dyeing.
6. The dye creeps through fine cracks in the wax in a different way each time.