

## Resist Dye T-Shirt

This fun afternoon project is based on an indigo dyeing technique used in Nigeria, where a starch paste called cassava is painted onto a large piece of cloth. The entire cloth is then dipped into the indigo dye vat and allowed to dry. The more times the cloth is dipped into the vat, the darker the indigo appears on the cloth. Once the dyeing process is complete, the cassava is washed out with water, leaving a white or very pale blue painting on a dark blue (indigo) background.

For this project, you will need:

- A Cotton T-Shirt
- Liquid Dye (Rit works well) OR tie dye color of your choice
- A high contrast drawing (black drawing on white paper) or B&W printed image
- 5 gallon bucket
- Washable Gel Glue (Elmer's makes a good one)
- Rubber Gloves
- Plastic Table Cover or plenty of newspaper
- A paint stir stick
- Liquid dye fixative (recommended but not required)

## Instructions

1. Prewash clothing and completely dry. This gets out any sizing of a new shirt or in case it shrinks a bit.
2. Cover work area with plastic table cover or old newspaper or magazines.
3. Place your drawing in between the t-shirt on a flat surface. Using the gel glue, trace your design on the t-shirt. You can also draw the design freehand if you like.
4. Make sure the glue is **completely dry** before you start the dye process. You can use a hair dryer to speed up this part. If there are any wet spots of glue, they will bleed into the dye instead of blocking the dye.

5. Once the glue is completely dry, fill the bucket with 3 gallons of hot water and 1/2 bottle of liquid dye. Shake bottle well before adding. (For darker results, add slightly more dye.) The water should be very hot but NOT boiling. **If using tie dye, follow instructions on package.**
6. Soak the T shirt until the color is the darkness you want. You may need to stir the dye a bit, but be careful not to rub the glue, as you need it to stay put. If parts of the shirt emerge from the water, just push down with the paint stir stick.
7. Rinse the t-shirt thoroughly with hot water to dissolve the glue. If any glue remains, wash T shirt by itself gently in warm water with a mild detergent. **Note: dye can stain porcelain. Rinse in a stainless steel sink or utility sink.**

