

Lesson Plan 10-5

Textile designs and patterns

Age group: Years...Key Stage 1 and 2

Aim: a. to learn about Gara cloth and the dyeing process for making designs and patterns.
b. to learn about simple Print Making and Batik

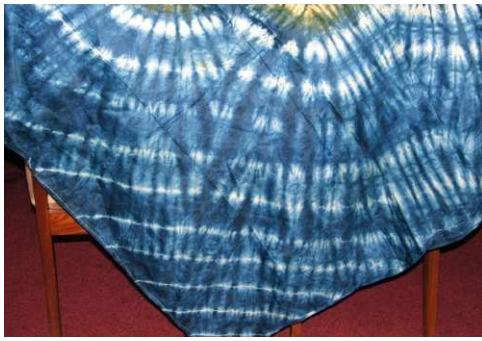
Resources:

General **African clothes** made from dyed materials (obtainable from OWL)
Gara Cloth Information Sheet (10-5a) and **Gara clothes of Bo (10-5b)**
(Photographs) OWL website Education Pages
www.oneworldlink.org.uk > Education Pages > Resources
Woven clothes ('Reel Lives' Video section on cotton)
African Clothes Game: Lesson Plan 10-B
Resources for Dyeing and Print making
(See websites below)

For each child Access to information sheet and photographs
Game template for class to enjoy. (younger children)
– **see lessonplan 10-B Clothes game**

Teacher Guidelines: Websites

1. Tie Dyeing: http://www.heart-ducational.co.uk/pdfs/info_tips/Traditional_Tie_Dyeing.pdf
2. Folding for tie dyeing: <http://www.prochemical.com/directions/Folding.htm>
3. Printmaking: <http://www.kinderart.com/printmaking/>
4. First prints: http://www.homecrafts.co.uk/content/pdf/ad516_printmaking.pdf
5. Printmaking:
http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/clothes_line/files/lesson11_print_making.pdf
6. More detailed description of dying:
www.archive.org/stream/mrskadiatokamara663rein : Mrs Kadiato Kamara – an expert dyer in Sierra Leone – extract from book, 22 pages (1976)



10-5a

Gara Cloth

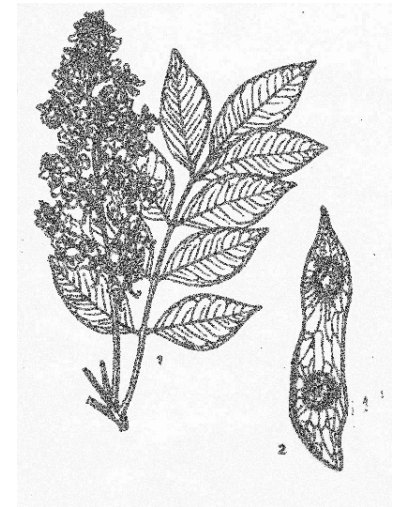
Information sheet



“Gara “ is the Mandingo word for the traditional indigo dye found in many types of textiles of Sierra Leone. The source of this dye is the “gara leaf” (the scientific name is *Longchocarpus cyanescens*, a pod bearing plant.) The “gara” plant is a climbing plant which grows to a height of approximately 2 to 3 metres. The leaves of this plant contain the indigo dye which gives colours ranging from light to dark blue.

The art of tie and dye using natural dyes is believed to have been practiced in almost every country in the world, including African countries. Research has shown that by the 11th Century weaving and indigo dyeing had reached a high standard in West Africa. Many of the original tie and dye designs found are similar to those in use today.

Gara dyeing is said to have been brought to Sierra Leone by Mandingo traders between 1840 -1900, from nearby Guinea. They settled in Northern Sierra Leone and encouraged gara dyeing. The Temme women developed the art and it spread to other parts of the country.



In the past the traditionally woven cloth, known as country cloth, dyed with gara, was used by chiefs and warriors for ceremonial dress, for bridal dowry, burial cloths and gifts for important visitors.

At present the word gara is used to describe the dyeing process (natural and synthetic) and the products (the dyed materials). Gara is now worn by a much wider circle of people for cultural and aesthetic reasons. Gara is often used for tablecloths, curtains, bedspreads. Gara products have become a status of national identity of Sierra Leone.

The term “Gara” is used broadly to include any cloth dyed with the natural indigo dye, other natural dyes, or even with imported synthetic dyes. Therefore the plant and the leaves from which the native dye is obtained, the dyed cloths and the clothes are all known as “gara”.



10-5b Clothes of Sierra Leone – the patterns & cloth are all called 'Gara'

These clothes and materials from Sierra Leone are with the One World Link and can be borrowed.



Woven Clothes as seen how they are made
in the video "Reel Lives": section on
Cotton

These can be borrowed from One World
Link.

