

IndiGO!: Shibori Social Justice Banners

Objectives

- Students will identify a social justice movement to research.
- Students will decide on the movement's success and present data to support their conclusion.
- Students will illustrate a symbol to identify the movement.
- Students will be able to utilize the art of Shibori to stitch the symbol onto fabric.
- Students will be able to identify the significance of indigo and describe the scientific process of the dye.

Vocabulary and Terms

Indigo, natural dye, Shibori

Resources

[Article](#) on Indigo

Helpful [guide](#) on Shibori stitching

Materials

[Raw silk](#) used for banners, [Dye kit](#), needles, dental floss, gloves for dyeing

Procedures

1. Discuss the meaning of the term *social justice*. What does it mean? How is it achieved? Who might be affected by injustices? Students will research social justice movements and choose one that connects with them personally or connects with someone they know.
2. Write a report on the chosen movement including, but not limited to: Who is involved? What are their methods of communication and protest? What are their goals? Have they been effective in their methods to reach these goals?
3. Present their findings.
4. Draw a symbol to represent the movement and stitch it onto a cotton fabric with dental floss or hemp thread, leaving spaces in between the stitches.
5. Pull the ends of the floss so the fabric scrunches up. Tie off both ends so the fabric stays scrunched.

6. Discuss indigo- its origins in the US and the West Africans who brought the knowledge of the dye to slave owners. Indigo was used in Civil War uniforms, our American flag, and the color was associated with wealth and status. Harvesting the plant that indigo comes from was laborious and dangerous, so it was left to slave labor, affecting the health of many southern slaves.
7. Describe the process of indigo dye for students and demonstrate with a piece of cotton fabric. What happens when the fabric is submerged? When it is taken out? How does the dye work? What conditions need to be present in order for the dye to work?
8. Allow students to (wearing gloves) dip their stitched fabric into the dye 2-3 times, allowing the fabric to sit in open air for 5-10 minutes in between each dip.
9. Rinse with water following the final dip. Take stitches out and allow fabric to lay flat to dry. Sew final piece of fabric around a dowel rod for hanging



