

WHAT THE FOOD IN YOUR PANTRY CAN DO

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Author Note

First paragraph: Abstract

Second paragraph: History of Shibori

Third paragraph: Process

Fourth paragraph: Findings and Conclusion

References

Abstract

Onions have been an essential household item for centuries. Many people use onions for cooking, skin care or even to get rid of a cold. What many people don't know is onions can be used to dye fabric; like Cotton or bamboo. The purpose of dyeing fabrics naturally with blueberries, onions, turmeric and etc, is to help the earth and human life. Synthetic dyes like Rit dye are made with many harmful chemicals like ethoxylates, phthalates and heavy metals are harmful textile dyes that can cause allergies to skin, respiratory problems and dermatitis disease. The technique I've decided to use is the shibori technique, which is a resist dyeing technique that involves the shaping of a fabric in a dyeing process. This technique originated in China in the seventeenth century. I've decided to dye my 100% cotton ribbed tank top with a purple onion, and a brown onion. My first attempt was successful color wise however when it came to my shibori technique it failed because my binding wasn't tight enough so I tried a second attempt and used purple onion, brown onion and orange peels. For my shibori technique I used quarters and white yarn to bind the fabric.

The shibori technique is so important because this method was first used by poor people who weren't able to buy expensive fabrics like silk so they used fabrics like hemp and used shibori techniques to manipulate the fabric into looking rich. Manipulating the fabric allowed people to be artistic and express themselves through the clothes. Also if clothes were damaged or lost color it could easily be redyed because it was inexpensive. These methods dated back to the seventeenth century In China.

WHAT YOUR PANTRY FOOD CAN DO

Process**What You Will Need**

- 5 brown onions
- 2 purple onions
- 1 orange
- 1 gallons of water
- 1 pot
- White Yarn or rubber bands
- 4 quarters or small rocks
- Cotton shirt

Step 1

Soak your cotton shirt for 1 hour in lukewarm water.

The shirt needs to soak so the thread can become loose. While the shirt is soaking, pour one gallon of water into the pot and heat it to medium on the stove. 10 minutes into the water warming up, start peeling the skin off five brown onions, two purple onions and 1 orange.



(Example of how the onion peels should look)

Step 2

Put ingredients in a pot of water and stir for two minutes. Leave the ingredients to soak for 30min. You will know when your mixture is ready when the colors of your onion peels start to fade from a solid color to a light color. Get a strainer and scoop all of the peels out of the pot.



Step 3

This step is the shibori process where we will bind the fabric. Turn the shirt inside out and place the quarters on the fabric, now you will tie the yarn very tightly around the quarters. Now you will fold the fabric horizontally 4 times and tie the yarn in 4 knots.



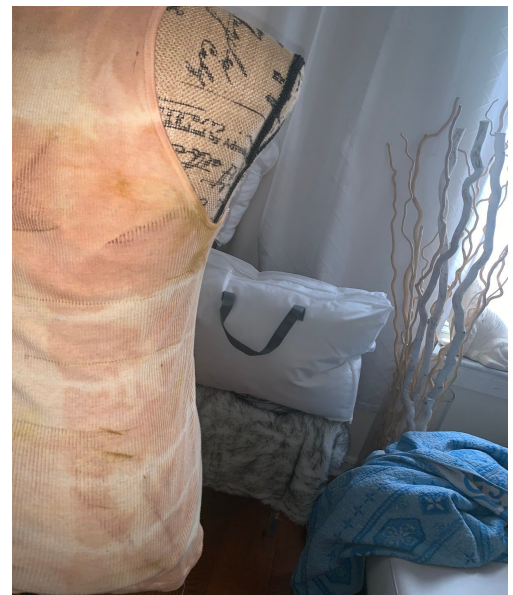
Step 4

In this step you will place the shirt in the pot to soak overnight for 9 hours. After the 9 hours when you take the shirt out of the pot and cut the yarn off. You should notice the contrast of color when the yarn is removed.



Step 5

Lastly you will rinse the shirt under cool water and hang to dry.



Before**After (Front)****(Back)**

Findings

My project didn't come out exactly like what I expected because parts of the shirt are patchy and didn't take the dye well. However I'm pleased about the result being that the first time I didn't see any resistance in the shirt. One of the problems could be that I squeezed out the shirt too hard which made some of the dye disappear.

In conclusion using natural dyes from what we have at home can be very essential and help save the earth. It's so important to fully use the resources around us instead of throwing it away. What I've learned during this process is you can create something out of nothing, it doesn't take a lot of money to make art. Or express yourself through art. Even though I didn't get my results on my first try, I was able to learn from previous mistakes and correct them my second time around.

REFERENCES

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