

The **Batik for Schools PDF** describes how to introduce batik to pupils. In addition to outlining a technique suitable for use in schools, this pdf also shares some tips for working with batik in a classroom situation. By teachers Natalie Easton and Mandy Pringle.

## Materials and Equipment

You will need:

- Fabric transfer crayons
- Cotton sheet
- Batik dyes
- Paraffin wax
- Selection of tjantins
- Embellishments (sequins, pastel dye sticks, thread)
- Iron and Batik wax pot
- Newsprint

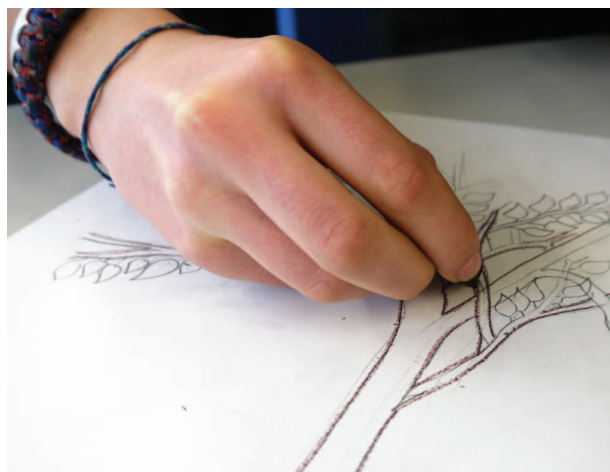
## Step 1. Drawing your image

Begin by drawing your image on paper (we used A3) with a pencil.

Choose simple designs.

Tip! If a child makes a small drawing with fiddly lines, just enlarge it on the photocopier.





Next go over all the lines using a fabric transfer crayon. Press on fairly hard and use a single firm line. This waxy crayon will transfer to the fabric and help resist the dye.

**Tip!** The colours of these crayons will become brighter when ironed on the fabric.

**Tip!** If your design includes writing, then before you outline your drawing with the transfer crayon you

need to trace your image and then photocopy it in reverse to ensure the letters will be the correct way round on your final design.

## Step 2. Transfer image on to the fabric

Next the image needs to be transferred to your fabric. Iron the fabric first to warm it, then place your drawing face down and gently iron. Keep checking to ensure the image is fully transferred.



## Step 3. Outlining in wax

Set up a wax work station: wax melting pots, newspaper and tjantings. Remember! Wax can combust if left to get too hot so never leave was unattended and always use a thermostatically controlled melting pot.

Before you start work on your fabric, experiment with the tjantings on a spare bit of paper or fabric. Different tjantings will produce a slightly different wax trail. Dip the tjantings in the wax post and gently but confidently "draw" your line. Have a tissue handy to stop dribbles as you move your tjanting from one area of your fabric to another, but be aware that dribbles, spots, streaks are all part of the charm of batik.

Tip! The wax lines you create need to penetrate the fabric fully, if they are to block or resist the dye. To check for this, hold your fabric up to the light - you'll be able to spot areas where the wax has not fully penetrated the fabric and then you can add more hot wax to these lines.

Tip! Although there can be a bit of a "bottle neck" when children apply the wax, it's important to control this area and not rush children through. Have other activities going on along side, and always have an adult watching over the wax work station.





## Step 4. Adding colour

Tip! These fabric dyes stain so cover tables with plenty of newspapers and wear aprons.

Place a sheet of sugar paper over the newspaper, and then place your fabric right side up on the sugar paper.

The dyes are very concentrated so dilute them first with a little water, and have clean water on the table for cleaning brushes/diluting further. The dyes can be mixed just like normal paints. Test your colours first on a sheet of paper.

Using a brush, apply the dye to your batik. Enjoy the fluidity of the dye on the fabric as the colours seep and experiment with mixing colours straight on the fabric too.

When the batik is covered in dye, allow it to dry (use a hair dryer if you are in a hurry).

Iron off the wax by ironing over the batik fabric through two pads of newsprint (one top, one bottom). You may need to keep changing these newsprint sheets until all the wax is absorbed.



## Step 5. Finishing



You can add embellishments to your batik to add further definition/highlights to your design. You might choose to use embroidery threads, sequins, fabric pens and paints, or silk gutters.

