

Artisanal Dyeing in Latin America

Textile Workshop, 2016

Target Audience: Elementary, Grades 2-5

RELATED CONTENT AREAS

Spanish | Art | Social Studies | Science

INSTRUCTIONS

Overview	In this lesson, students will explore the process and the materials used in the natural, artisanal dyeing process used in Latin America for centuries		
Standards	Tennessee Visual Art Curriculum Standards 1.0 Students will understand and apply media, techniques, and processes. 4.0 Students will understand the visual arts in relation to history and cultures. 6.0 Students will make connections between visual arts and other disciplines. Tennessee Modern Language Standards 1. Communicate in a language other than English. 2. Gain knowledge and understanding of other cultures. 3. Connect with other disciplines and acquire information.		
Objectives	Students will be able to make predictions and identify the colors that natural materials produce, including cochineal, indigo, turmeric, annatto, and Brazil wood. Students will be able to relate the dyeing process with cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.	Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Small pots with water- Alum/Cream of Tartar (powders)- Cochineal, indigo, turmeric- Computer and projector- 6 tables- Brazil wood, annatto
Time	30 minutes	Vocabulary	Mordant - Alum - Cream of Tartar - Wool - Cochineal - Indigo - Turmeric - Annatto – Brazil wood

PROCEDURE

- Teacher will give a brief overview of the dyeing process using a PowerPoint presentation as a guide.
2. Students will visit the tables in small groups of 4-6 students. Each table represents a step in the dyeing process.
- Table 1: Wash the wool with soap and warm water.
- Materials: soap, water, wool

- Why do you think you wash the wool first?

Table 2: Mordant wool.

- Materials: alum powder, cream of tartar powder, cold water.
- What is a mordant? What does it mean to mordant the wool? Why do you mordant the wool before you dye it? - Mordant is a binding agent, normally a metal ion used in the dyeing process.
- Alum and cream of tartar are types of mordants. Mordants help the dye to “stick” to the wool, just as a piece of tape holds two things together.

Table 3: Dye with cochineal and indigo.

- Materials: cochineal, indigo, pot of water, wool, pre-dyed piece of wool.
- What is cochineal? What is indigo? ¿Como se dicen en español? How can you describe them? Where do they come from? What color do you predict cochineal will dye the wool? What color do you predict the indigo will dye the wool?

Table 4: Dye with turmeric and annatto.

- What is turmeric? What is annatto? ¿Como se dicen en español? How can you describe them? What color do you predict the turmeric will dye the wool? What color do you predict the annatto will dye the wool?

Table 5: Dye with Brazil wood.

- What is Brazil wood? ¿Como se dice en español? What does it feel like? What does it smell like? How can you describe what it looks like? What color do you predict the Brazil wood will dye the wool?

Table 6: Make your bracelet.

- There will be bag of pre-cut, mixed colored yarns dyed through this natural process. Students will pick a mystery piece and will be asked to guess which material was used to produce the color on their string, and how they know. - I predict that my string was dyed using ____ because ____.

EVALUATION

Students will be provided with an individual piece of yarn that has been dyed using the natural process. Students will be asked to identify which of the natural dyes produced the color on their yarn.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Students will leave school with a bracelet made from yarn that was dyed through artisanal processes. Students will share a quarter-sheet of paper with parents that explains what they took part in, as well as follow up questions for the parent to ask the student.

Natural Textile Dyeing Vocabulary

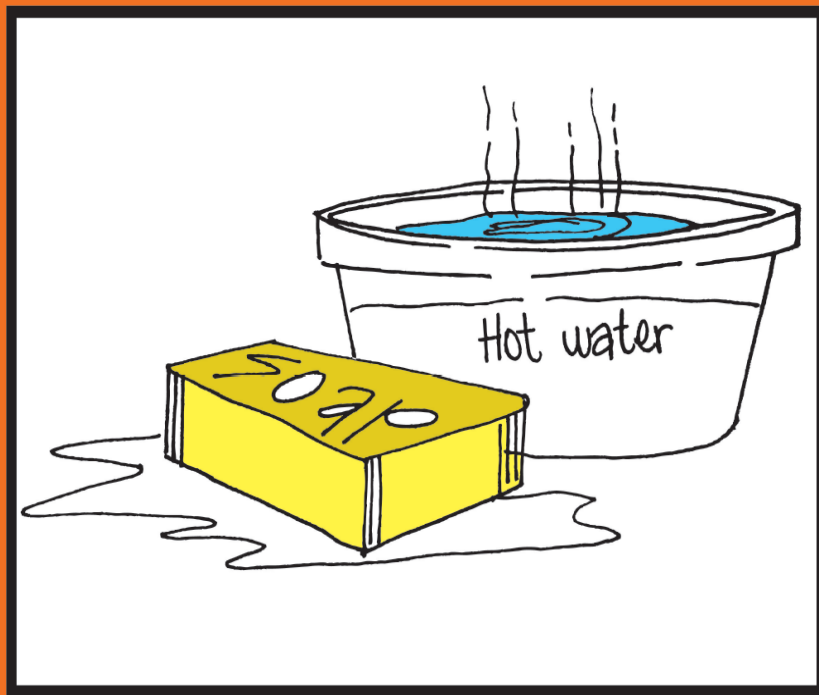
English	Spanish	Definition
Alum	Alumbre	A common dye mordant (see below).
Annato dye	Achiote	A natural orange dye.
Baking soda	Bicarbonato de sodio	An alkaline substance used to alter the pH to change and intensify a color.
Brazilwood	Palo de Brasil	A natural orange-pink dye.
Chamomile leaves	Hojas de manzanilla	A natural yellow dye.
Cochineal	Cochinilla	A natural dark red dye.
Cotton	Algodón	A soft, white substance that surrounds the seeds of a plant. It is used as a textile fiber and thread for various products.
Cream of tartar	Crémor tártaro	A common dye mordant.
Dyeing	Teñido	The process of coloring fibers, yarns or fabrics.
Hibiscus (flower)	Jamaica	A natural pink dye.
Indigo	Añil	A natural blue dye.
Lemon	Limón	An acidic substance used to alter the pH to change and intensify a color.
Mordant	Mordiente	A naturally occurring, water-soluble pre-treatment fixative for the dye. The mordant is applied after the wool is washed, before the wool is immersed in the colored dye bath. Common mordants include alum and cream of tartar.
Red onion	Cebolla morada	A natural light green dye.

Natural Textile Dyeing Vocabulary

English	Spanish	Definition
Red roses	Rosas rojas	A natural pink dye.
Sodium chloride	Cloruro de sodio en grano	An alkaline substance used to alter the pH to change and intensify a color.
Spin	Hilar	After the sheep wool has been cut and washed, it is spun. Spinning is the twisting together of drawn out strands of fibers to form yarn.
Prickly pear	Pitalla	A natural magenta dye.
Turmeric (ground)	Cúrcuma molida	A natural yellow dye.
Wool	Lana de oveja	The fine, soft, curly hair that forms the coat of sheep that is spun into yarn.
Vinager	Vinagre	An acidic substance used to alter the pH to change and intensify a color.
Yarn	Hilo	Spun thread that is used for knitting, weaving or sewing.

Wash wool

with neutral soap
and warm water



Mordant wool

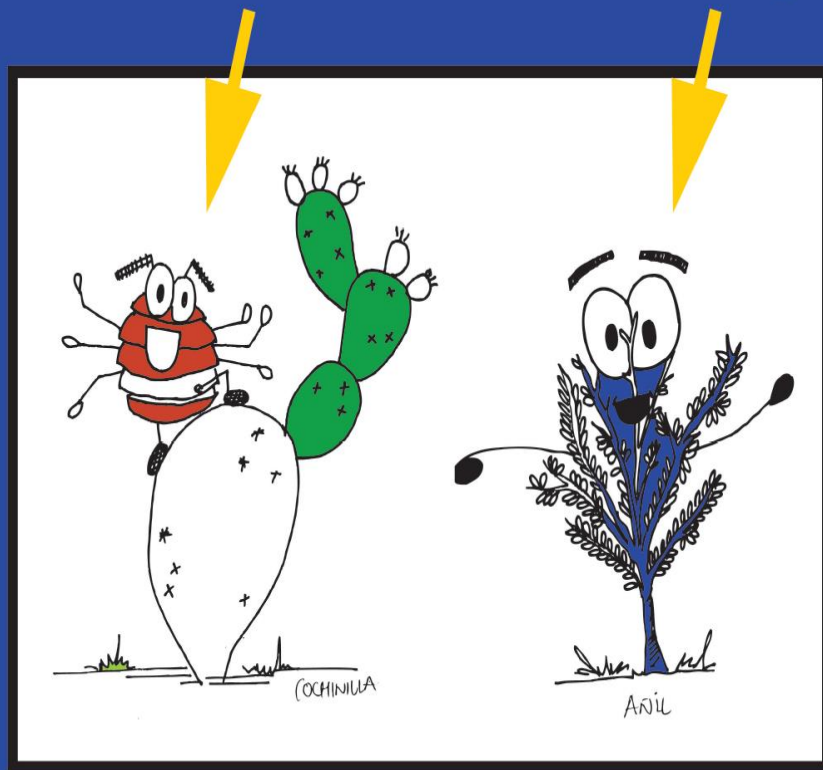
with alum and
cream of tartar



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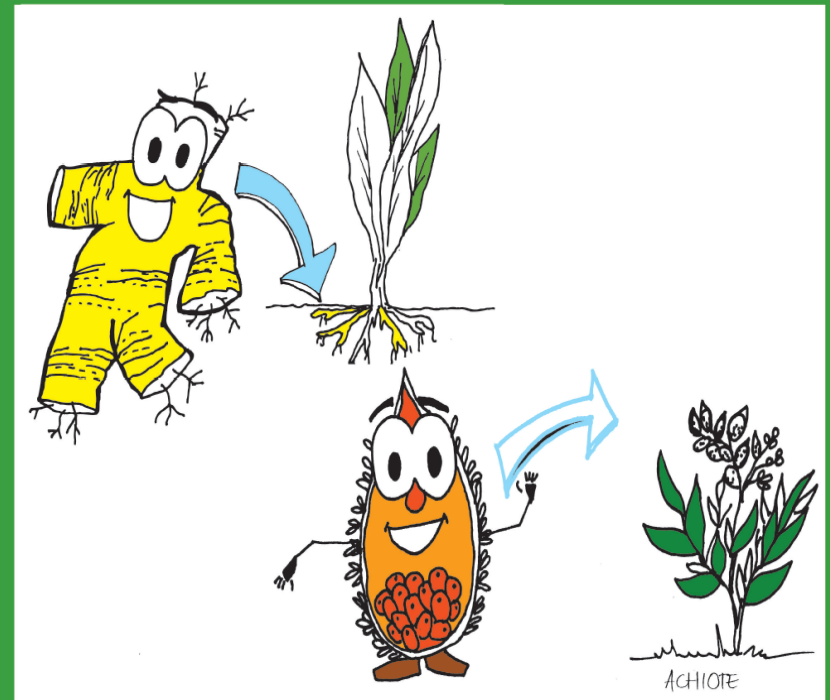
To dye

with cochineal and indigo



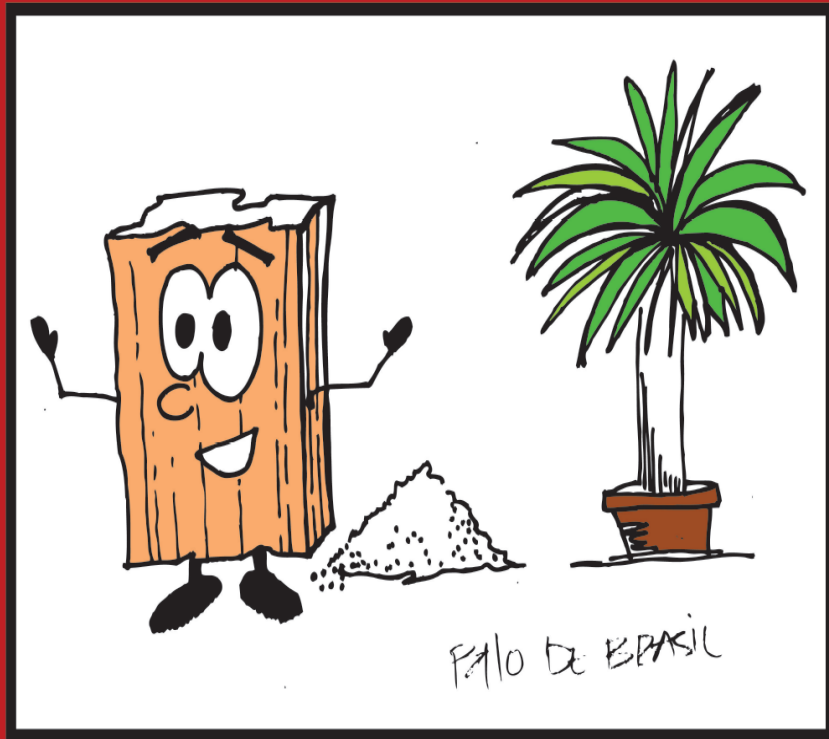
To dye

with turmeric and
annatto

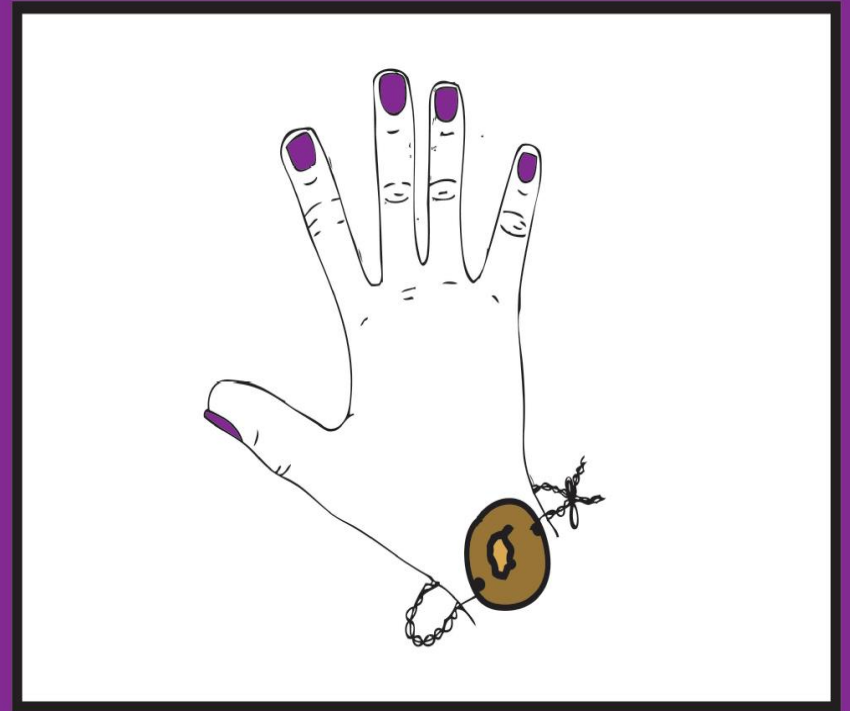


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To dye with brazilwood



Make your bracelet



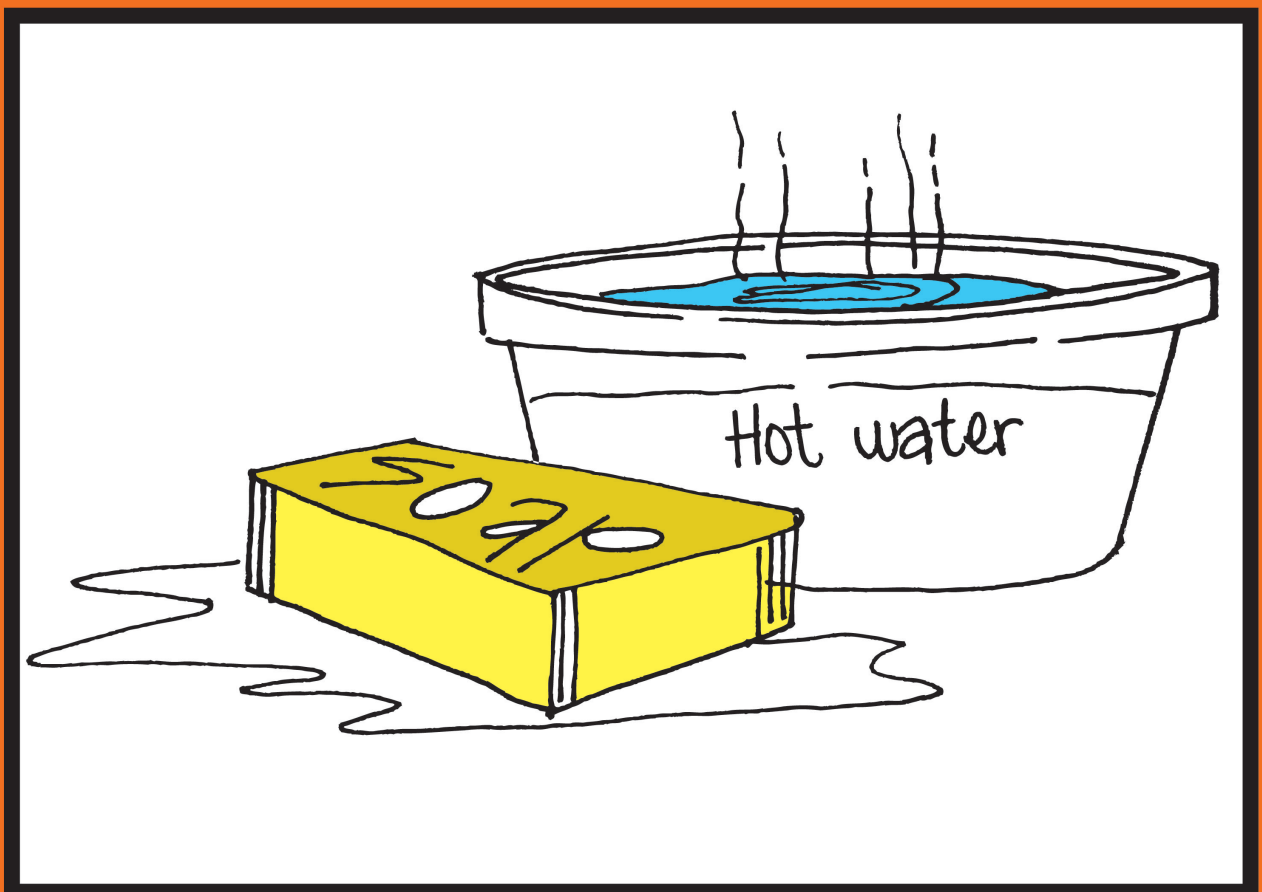
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START HERE



Wash wool

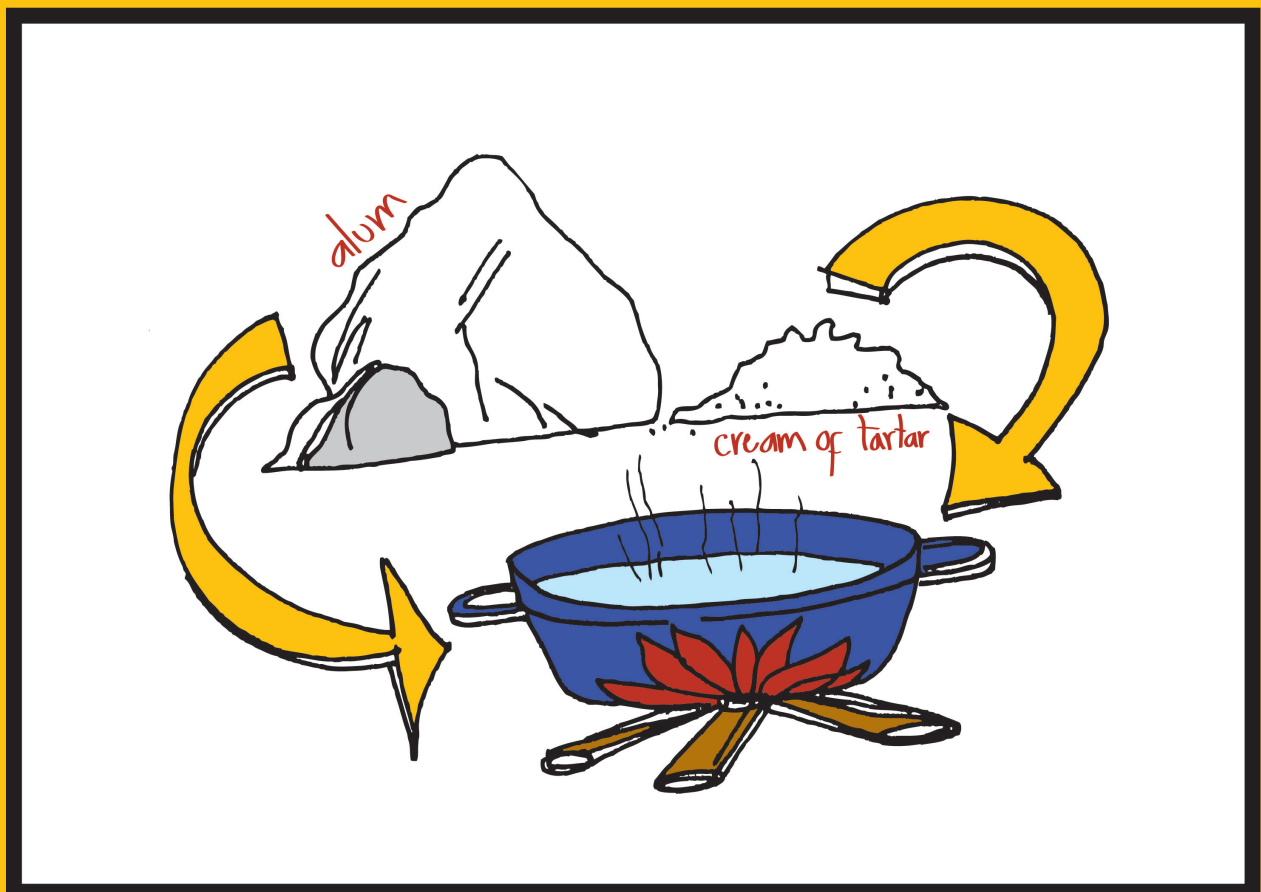
with neutral soap
and warm water



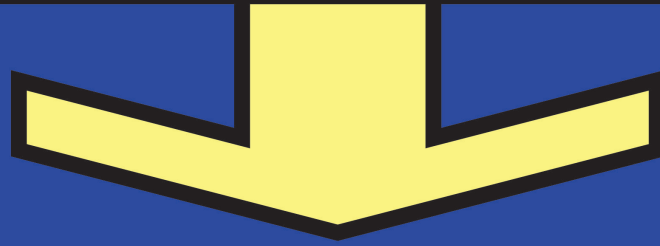
STEP #1



Mordant wool with alum and cream of tartar

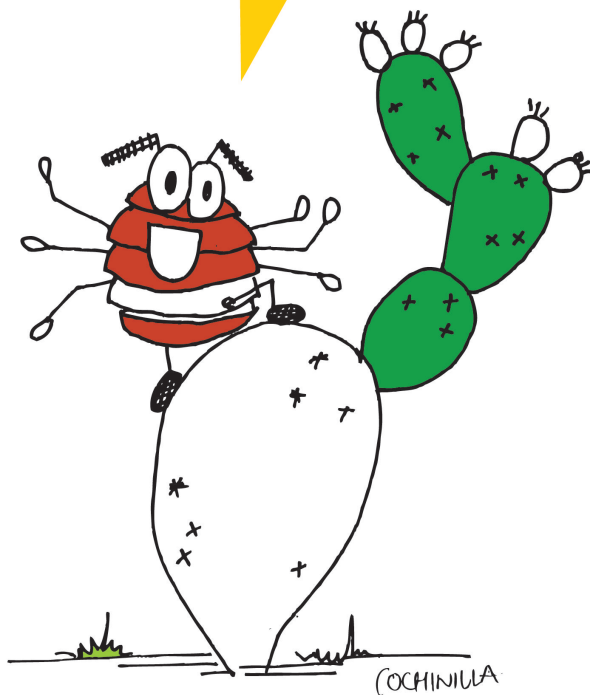


STEP #2



To dye

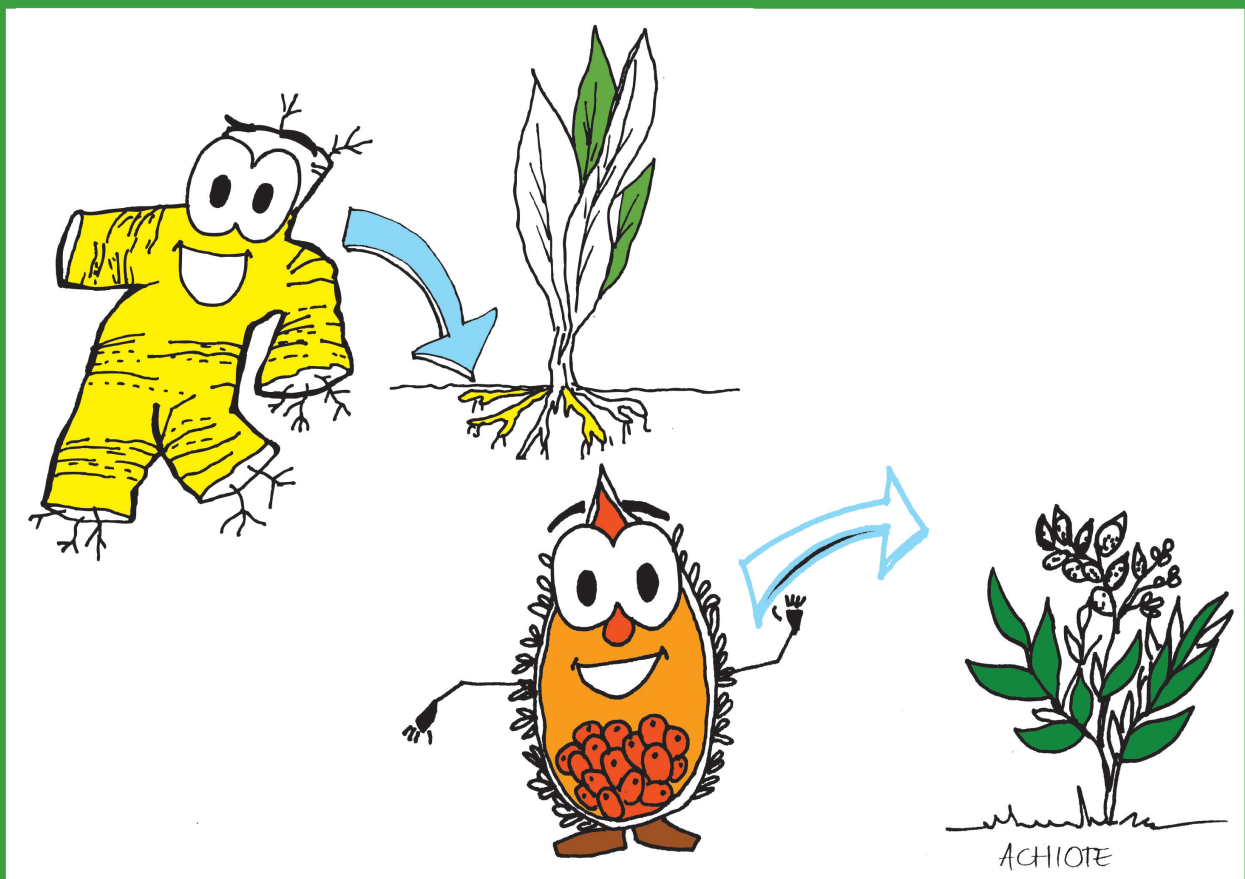
with cochineal and indigo



STEP #4



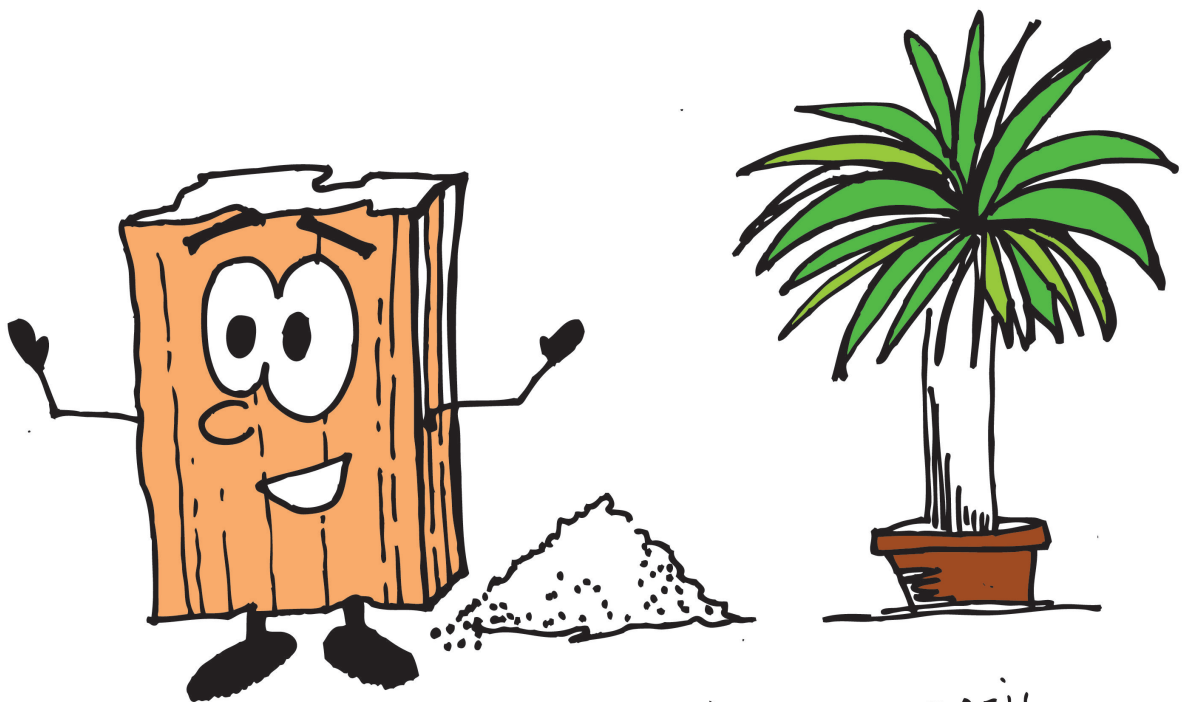
To dye
with turmeric and
annatto



STEP #5



To dye
with brazilwood

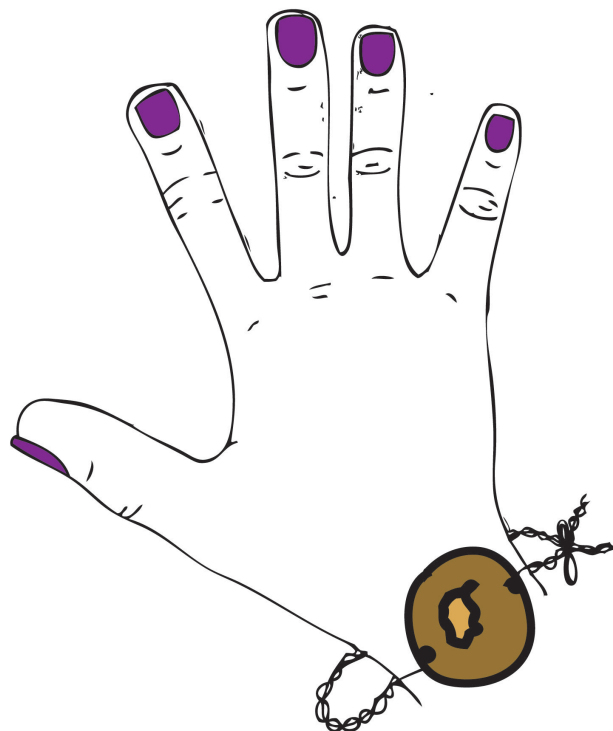


FALO DE BRASIL

STEP #6



**Make your
bracelet**





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Natural Dyeing and Weaving Vocabulary images

Annatto

Alum

Brazilwood

Cochineal

Cotton

Cream of Tartar

Indigo

Loom

Sheep Wool

Turmeric

Weaver

Yarn

Contributed by Lisa Trujillo

Nashville, Tennessee























