

Worksheet 1: Decorating Fabric

Let's Batik!

Hmong women use their sewing talents to create beautifully decorated fabric pieces called paj ntaub. Some Hmong women use a technique called **batik** to decorate their fabrics. Batik is a resist dye technique. Melted wax is painted on to plain fabric. The fabric is then dipped in dye. Wherever the wax is applied, the dye does not affect the fabric.

Would you like to try batik? Here's what you'll need.

A piece of 100% cotton light-colored fabric

Dye

Crayon

Iron and plain paper

Using the crayon make a design on your fabric piece. Make sure to press hard with your crayon so that the wax sticks to your fabric. Then carefully dip your fabric in dye. Let dry. Sandwich your fabric between two pieces of white paper. Iron carefully with the help of an adult. The wax will transfer to the paper. Let the fabric cool. Can you see your design?

