

Batik – Sri Lanka

Sri Lankan Flag



Picture of Batik



What is Batik?

Batik is originally from the island of Java. In Batik, an artist applies wax in a specific pattern, then colours the non-waxed parts of the cloth with a dye. Hot water can be used to remove the wax and they can then repeat the waxing and dyeing with more than one colour.

Though Batik is best known to come from Indonesia, Sri Lanka also has a flourishing batik scene. Simple “batik-style” paintings can be made using white (or other coloured) crayon and watercolour paints.

Required Materials

- A4 Paper (12)
- White crayons (12 + spare)
- Watercolour paint (12)
- Paint brushes (12 + spare)
- Water and water pots (12 - e.g., glasses, empty cleaned yoghurt pots, mugs etc)

Preparation and how to do it

Before the session, look up some examples of batik, and some animals that you could draw.

Start with an introduction to batik and show some examples of what it looks like. Ask the children to think about what they might want to draw.

Distribute materials and draw the ‘batik’ in crayon outline.

Fill in the gaps with the watercolour paint and let dry.

At the end participants can show their batik and talk about what they’ve drawn (if desirable/possible).