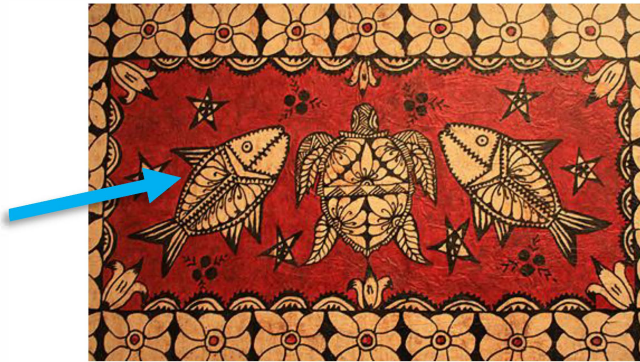


Making An Oceania-Inspired Tapa Cloth





A **tapa cloth** is a barkcloth made in the islands of the Pacific Ocean. Unlike its name, it isn't made of cloth at all. It is actually made from bark of shrubs and trees softened through a process of soaking and beating flat. The "cloth" is then painted with brown, red, and black vegetable dyes and paint. Tapa cloths typically feature designs of flowers, Oceanic animals and geometric patterns and were used as clothing, ceremonial decorations, wall hangings, and bedding.

This shows the Oceanic animals that were chosen as the focal point of this tapa cloth.



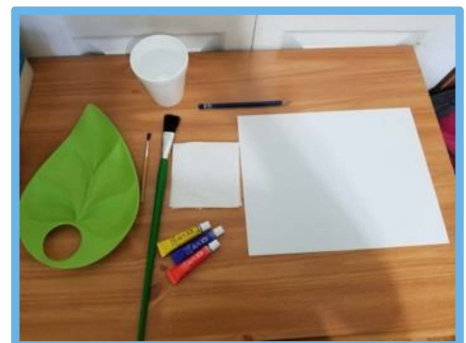
This shows the geometric pattern that was chosen as the border.

MATERIALS:

<p>Steeped tea bag</p> 	<p>Light Colored Paper or Card Stock</p> 	<p>Black, Brown, & Red Coloring Tools (Crayons, Paint, Etc.)</p> 	<p>Drawing Utensil</p> 
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STEP ONE: Gather your materials. Have an adult brew the tea bag for you before you start. We need it to be cool before we work with it.

STEP TWO: Squeeze some of the liquid out of the tea bag. (You need it to be moist but not soaked.) Dab the tea bag on across the surface of your paper. Allow it to dry completely. *Tip:* It may help to place a book or another heavy flat object on top of your paper while it dries so that it doesn't curl up.



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STEP THREE: Lightly sketch out the design of your tapa cloth. You can include a border, geometric patterns, a focal object such as flowers or animals, or a combination of them all.



STEP FOUR: Fill in your design with your black, brown, and red paint, markers, crayons, etc.



When you finish, hang your newly created Oceanian inspired tapa cloth for all to see!
Below is an Oceanian-inspired tapa cloth created by our summer intern, Noreen.

