

KENTE PAPER CLOTH

Age Range: Any

Description: Kente cloth comes from Ghana and was originally worn by royalty. Woven with colorful strips of cotton and silk, these are now worn widespread in Ghana. Kente comes from the word “Kenten” which means basket. Each color holds a special meaning: black (spirituality), blue (peacefulness), green (growth), yellow (royalty), red (strength), grey (healing), purple (mother earth).

Time: 30+ min

Materials Needed: Construction paper, scissors, markers.

STEP ONE: USING BLACK CONSTRUCTION PAPER, FOLD IT IN HALF HAMBURGER STYLE. CUT SMALL ONE INCH STRIPS INTO THE FOLDED SIDE, STOPPING AN INCH BEFORE YOU REACH THE TOP SO IT ALL STAYS TOGETHER. CUT ONE INCH STRIPS OF THE COLORS OF YOUR CHOICE. UNFOLD THE BLACK PIECE OF PAPER, IT SHOULD NOW LOOK LIKE A WHOLE PIECE WITH CUTS GOING DOWN THE MIDDLE.



STEP TWO: USING THE FIRST COLOR STRIP, PUT IT UNDER THE FIRST OF THE BLACK PAPER, AND OVER THE NEXT. FOLLOW THE PATTERN OF “OVER AND UNDER” AND PUSH IT ALL THE WAY TO ONE SIDE SO THERE IS ROOM FOR MORE STRIPS. WHILE ALSO ALTERNATING COLORS UNTIL YOU REACH THE END OF THE BLACK PAPER.



STEP THREE: USING YOUR MARKERS, DRAW SHAPES AND DESIGNS ON THE LITTEL COLORED SQUARES OF YOUR KENTE FABRIC. MAKE SURE TO USE THE SAME SHAPE ON THE SAME COLOR.

