

Family Art Time

Geometric Mixed Media Collage



Tapa Cloth
Late 19th - early 20th Century
Maui, Hawaiian Islands
Bark Cloth
Bequest of Gilbert M. Denman, Jr.
2005.1.133

Look-

- Take a close look at this tapa cloth from Hawaii. What do you think it is made of?
- Imagine you are in Hawaii, one of the islands in the Oceanic region of the Pacific where tapa cloth is made. Close your eyes, what do you think you might hear in Hawaii? What do you think you would see?

Think-

Tapa cloth is a bark cloth made in Oceanic cultures primarily on the islands of Fiji, Samoa, and Tonga. It is also found in Hawaii, Papua New Guinea, and New Zealand. It is created from tissue-thin strips of bark from the paper-mulberry tree and is very delicate. Originally it was used to create clothing, but it has been replaced by cotton and other textiles.

Tapa cloth is still used for ceremonial clothing, blankets, and decorative wall hangings. It is typically painted with geometric shapes such as squares, triangles, and stylized forms such as leaves using a palette of black, brown, and white paint. The colors and motifs used vary from island to island.

Make-

You can make a mixed media collage featuring geometric patterns and shapes for you and your family at home. Mixed media art combines several types of art materials and techniques, such as drawing and collage.





What You Will Need:

- Recycled thin cardboard (cereal box)
- Pencil
- Ruler (or straight edge)
- Scissors
- White and black oil pastels or crayons
- Construction paper
- Glue

How To Do This Activity



1. Gather the supplies you will need to complete this activity.



2. With your ruler and pencil, draw a rectangle on the cardboard. Cut the rectangle to the desired length and width following the lines you made.



3. With your black and white oil pastels, draw a border around the perimeter of the cardboard and a variety of lines within.



4. With your scissors, cut the construction paper into a variety of geometric shapes.



5. Glue the shapes onto your cardboard creating a pattern within the lines.



6. Retrace any lines you feel need to be bolded and add any additional patterns you desire.



Connect-

Ohana Means Family by Ilima Loomis (Author), Kenard Pak (Illustrator). This story commemorates a Hawaiian family preparing for a luau as they farm taro for poi.

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Have fun and share your creations with us!



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