

"Creativity takes courage." (Henri Matisse)

Frieth Year 6 Art homelearning - week beginning Mon 20 April 2020.

LO: "*Children will be able to experiment with 'an easy - no wax - batik method' in response to Amazonian imagery.*"

The Quetzal Bird.



The body of the Quetzal bird is iridescent (gleaming or changing colour with position) green in colour while their breast is red. The male Quetzal has a yellow beak and the female's beak is black. The tail is longer than its entire body. They are endangered due to deforestation and poaching. Quetzals are well known for their strikingly coloured plumage for which they are hunted.

The ancient Maya viewed the bird as 'the god of the air' and as a symbol of goodness and light. The bird represents liberty (freedom) and it is said to die of sadness if it is caged. For this reason, the Mayans would pluck a few of its highly prized feathers before setting it free.

The Quetzal is the national bird of Guatemala and can be seen on their flag. The bird has also given its name to the currency of Guatemala. In ancient Mayan culture, the quetzal bird's tail feathers were used as currency (money).



Activity 1.

Spend a little time finding some images of the Quetzal bird. Notice the beautiful colours and the actual size of the bird. The tail feathers are longer than the entire body of the bird!

Activity 2.

Use some of the images that you find to help you sketch a very simple outline of a Quetzal bird. Your sketch does not need to include fine details or colour. It should be between A5 and A4 in size. You are going to use your outline drawing in the next activity - BATIK - so the simpler the better!

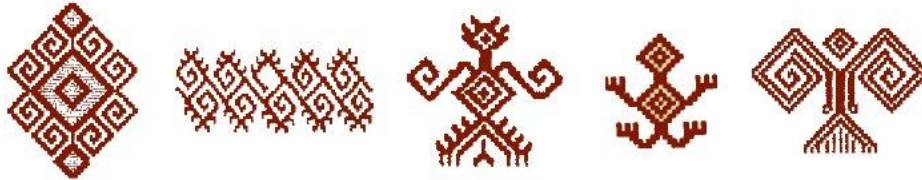


(Feel free to produce a detailed, observational, colourful drawing of the quetzal bird afterwards if you want to of course!)

Activity 3.

BATIK is a type of textile art that often uses wax and dye to produce patterns on a piece of plain cloth. The art of decorating cloth in this way has been practised for centuries.

In the batik process, I would like you to use your quetzal bird outline as your design. If you feel adventurous, you might like to add some of your more simple Mayan textile designs from last term.



Wax can be applied to surfaces including paper, wood and fabric as a resist* for colourful dyes. However for 'the wax batik method,' the wax and the dye need to be hot. So instead, I am going to suggest an 'easy - no wax - batik method,' which can be found (in 8 easy steps with pictures) on the site below - simply type: 'Easy, no-wax batik,' into the site search bar.....

*resist = wherever you draw with wax or toothpaste, the fabric will not absorb any colour

<https://www.instructables.com>

You don't have to use this site if you find another that you prefer! There are many different methods which do not require you to use hot wax and dye. I even found a method which actually suggests using toothpaste as a resist instead of hot wax! Another suggested using toothpaste and baby lotion!



Please take great care. Whichever method you use, make sure there is an adult with you especially if you do use a method requiring heat

3.

Some more adventurous Batik designs.....





4.

Activity 4.

If you really enjoy batik, and you would like to experiment some more, there are many websites with lots of different methods and designs for you to see. You might like to take a look at the following for some more ideas:

<https://pinkandgreenmama.com>

<https://lessonplans.craftgossip.com>

You could use your design to create a wall hanging, a tea towel or an apron, some napkins or even a table cloth.....I would love to see some pictures of your designs.

Enjoy!

5.

