

Toddler Thursdays

Patterns, Shapes, Oh My!



This very large cloth was made by a Yoruba artist in the country of Nigeria in Africa! It is called an adire cloth. The fabric was created using cotton and indigo, a plant that has a beautiful blue color when ground up and made into a dye.

Let's look closely at this cloth. Follow one of the lines with your finger. What shapes do you see? There are so many triangles, circles, and squares! Can you find three triangles? All of the shapes you see have a special meaning to the Yoruba people in Nigeria.

The word "adire" translates into "tie and dye." This cloth was made using different types of tie-dye or resist methods. One way is using wax or thread to cover the part you do not want dyed and then dyeing the rest.

Have you ever tie-dyed a shirt or piece of fabric? Create your own wax-resistant work of art by drawing on a white piece of paper with a white or light-colored crayon. Practice drawing some of the shapes you see in this adire cloth! Then, use washable watercolors to gently paint over the entire sheet of paper. The paint will not stick where you drew your shapes!

Share your adire cloth-inspired work of art on Instagram with #HighMuseumatHome.