

Natural Resist-Dye Easter Eggs

WHAT IS IT?

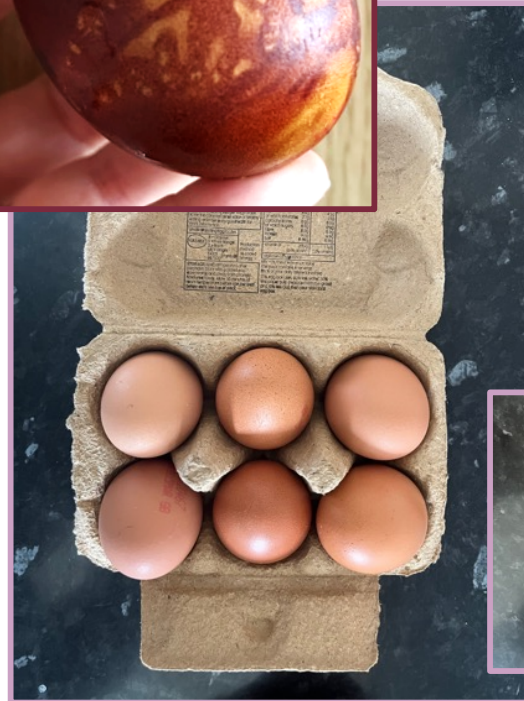
Dyeing Easter Eggs naturally, using onion skins to create a deep purple/red dye and plants to form a barrier to the dye. This results in rich coloured eggs with lighter patterns of leaves and flowers.

WHAT DO I NEED TO GET STARTED?

- Eggs
- Tights
- A Saucepan
- A selection of different leaves and flowers
- Onion skins – at least 1 onion skin per egg. (I have only tried with red onions, but apparently it also works with white onions)
- A splash of red wine vinegar
- Boiling water- ensure adult supervision
- Scissors– ensure adult supervision



Different flowers and leaves create different patterns – try a variety!



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THE PROCESS

1. Prepare the saucepan with onion skins. As a rough guide, use the skin of 1 onion per egg. The more skins you have, the bolder the dye. Add a splash of red wine vinegar.
2. Cut off a section of the tights from the leg so you have a small tube – 10cm or less will do. Tie a knot in one end.
3. Place your chosen plants on an egg. Think about the placement as this is how you create natural patterns.
4. Secure the plants in place by wrapping the egg in the tights tube and tying a knot in the other end. This is a slightly fiddly process, but once you have done the first one, you will get quicker! **Try to stretch the tights as much as possible to ensure the plants do not move during the dyeing process.**
5. Repeat this process for all of your eggs.
6. Bring the saucepan of onion skins and vinegar to the boil.
7. Once boiling, add the eggs. Simmer them for 20 minutes.
8. Leave to cool.
9. Carefully take the eggs out of the water and cut the tights off the eggs. Remove the plants if they have stuck a little.
10. Run the eggs under water to ensure all the plants are off – and voila! You should have some beautiful naturally dyed and patterned eggs.



SHARE YOUR PROCESS...

This creative activity is all about having fun! Using natural dyes and nature to create beautiful patterns – what could be a better way to celebrate spring and Easter? Share your process and finished decorative eggs with @fortheloveofartclasses on Instagram or @ftloveofartclasses on Facebook - I can't wait to see!



Happy Easter!