

## Fiji Tapa: Line and Pattern

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| <b>Essential Question</b> | Can you explore contrast, repetition, and pattern by creating a design inspired by a Fiji tapa?  |
| <b>Grades</b>             | 2nd  |
| <b>Time</b>               | 60 minutes   |
| <b>Art Concepts</b>       | Patterns, contrast, repetition, bark cloth, tapa, vertical, horizontal, diagonal, lines, shapes  |
| <b>Materials</b>          | Black Sharpie or black marker, black, brown, and white crayon or colored pencil, brown-paper grocery bag   |
| <b>Artwork in Focus</b>   | <a href="#"><u><i>Barkcloth (Masi bola bola), 1800-1820 by Artist Unknown</i></u></a>  |
| <b>Talking about Art</b>  | <p>Looking at this piece of art, what do you see? What shapes? What colors? Do you see any <b>patterns</b>? A pattern in art is when lines, shapes, and forms repeat in a predictable combination. It is something <i>visual</i> that repeats, such as color, shapes, or textures.</p> <p>What do you see repeating here? What does this piece of art remind you of?</p> <p>This piece of art is called a <b>tapa</b>, which is a cross between cloth and <b>heavy paper made of bark</b> (that is beaten and layered) and then painted or stenciled with natural dye. It is from Fiji, which is a place that is very far away, close to New Zealand and Australia. This tapa artwork was made in the 1800s, when Fiji was very isolated. The only way the people there had things like this was to make them! Or trade them with people from other islands close to them.</p> <p>The range of painted designs is characteristic of various Pacific regions and may be stenciled, stamped, hand-painted, or dyed. Pacific Islanders still make tapas for special occasions. The making, wearing, and gifting of tapa continues to be of great social importance to Pacific</p> |

Islanders; tapa is used in weddings, funerals, clothing, dance, and as ornament.

## Making Art

Today we are going to create our own version of a tapa. We will use a Sharpie and crayons or colored pencils on a brown-paper grocery bag.

1. Study the close-up of the tapa patterns. Pick a section of patterns to copy. Using a pencil and a piece of paper, draw one of the patterns. Now, look at two more sections of the tapa, and pick two other patterns to draw on your paper.
2. Keep the close-up and your sketches of the patterns in front of you for reference, which means you will refer to them or look at them for inspiration.
3. Lay the paper bag out and use your black marker to draw patterns on it, alternating between the black, brown, and white materials. Your goal is to either copy the close-up of the tapa as best you can or copy sections of it and put the patterns together in your own way.
4. You are finished when the paper bag is covered with patterns.

## Reflection

Do you think art can be made of *only* patterns?

Does your art piece have visual **contrast** and patterns in it?

What part of your art do you like and what part would you like to change?

## Curriculum Connections California Art Standards for Public Schools—Visual Arts

1.VA:Cr1.2: Use observation and investigation in preparation for making a work of art. K.VA:Cn11: Identify a purpose of an artwork.

## Common Core State Standards Math

K.G.B.6: Compose simple shapes to form larger shapes. *For example: "Can you join these two triangles with full sides touching to make a rectangle?"*

2.G.A.1: Recognize and draw shapes having specified attributes, such as a given number of angles or a given number of equal faces. Identify triangles, quadrilaterals, pentagons, hexagons, and cubes.

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