Here’s how to make a...

Kuba Style T-Shirt

In this project, we’ll show you the steps to make a tape resist T-shirt inspired by Kuba cloth, a woven fabric made by the Kuba artists of the Democratic Republic of Congo in Central Africa.

You can make your design as simple or complicated as you like!

Get started:

Set up a workstation with a plastic table cover to protect the surface.

Take out your creativity kit supplies and set aside.

Slide the posterboard piece inside your t-shirt. This will keep the paint from bleeding through to the back.

1. Use masking tape to make a rectangle on the front of the shirt to “frame” your design.

Cut lots of smaller pieces of tape and loosely stick them to the edge of frame.

2. Create designs inside the frame, using the smaller tape pieces. Some ideas:

- include your initials (can you see the L and S?)
- make zig zag lines, plus signs, and shapes
- cut tape into thinner strips or tear it to add line variety
- look at the Kuba Design handout for ideas!

HINT: bigger shapes and lines will be easier to peel off after painting
3. Fill in as much area as you can with tape lines. The exposed black area will be covered in white paint, and the taped area will stay black!

4. Open up your fabric paint. This paint doesn’t wash out of clothing, so BE CAREFUL!

   Dab white fabric paint on the black areas of the design. Dab, don’t drag! It will look splotchy. That’s ok.
   Totally cover the black areas of your design with paint.

   Let the paint dry for a little while.

5. If you have extra paint, dab on more paint in the areas that you want to be brighter. Let it dry again.

6. Once the paint is totally dry, peel off the tape to reveal your design! Throw away the tape.

   Let the shirt sit for 3 days (72 hours) before putting it through the wash. The paint will get softer after it is washed. It can go in the wash with other clothes, the paint will not run.

   Enjoy your cool custom design T-shirt. Great job!

   You matter, and so does art!