



EXPANDING THE ACTIVITY:

Fieldtrips

Many museums have textile, household furnishings, dyestuff, or garden exhibits that include indigo. Below are a few suggestions, but you are encouraged to explore other museums in your area.

- The Farmer's Museum,
Cooperstown, NY
888-547-1405
<http://www.farmersmuseum.org/>
Dye plants, dyeing equipment, and dyed yarns.
Reduced school group admission price; special workshops that can be arranged for school groups.
- Genesee Country Village and Museum, 1410 Flint Hill Road, Mumford, NY 14511
585-538-6822
<http://www.gcv.org/index.shtml>
Dye demonstrations and samples within a historical village setting. Group tours available.
- The Alling Coverlet Museum, 122 William Street, Palmyra, NY 14522.
315-597-6737
<http://www.palmyrany.com/historicpal/alling/>
A large collection of coverlets dating from the 1830s to the 1880s, some dyed with natural dyes.

Grow Indigo

Both *Indigofera suffruticosa* and *Indigofera tinctoria* can be easily grown. For best results in northern climes, grow in pots as they are susceptible to cold weather.

Indigo seeds and plants are available from these online resources:

Companion Plants: <http://www.companionplants.com/>
Sand Mountain Herbs: <http://www.sandmountainherbs.com/index.html>

Rita Buchanan's book, *A Weaver's Garden: Growing Plants for Natural Dyes and Fibers*, suggests a garden design that includes indigo plants. Both Buchanan and Vivian Prideaux, in a *Handbook of Indigo Dyeing*, explain how to extract the dye from the plant.

Other Natural Dyeing Activities

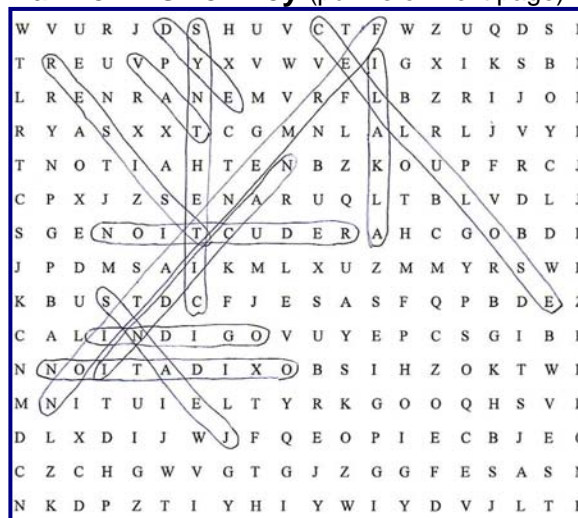
Pound flowers and leaves onto fabric to create botanical designs.

Make "Dirt shirts," garments dyed with soils.

Use photosensitive fabric paints to capture plant images.

Teach knitting - use plant-dyed yarns and make knitting needles from dowels.

Puzzle Answer Key (puzzle on next page)



Indigo Dyeing Word Search

Find and circle these words in the puzzle below:

Alkali Cellulose Dye					Fermentation Indican Indigo					Jeans Oxidation Reduction					Resist Synthetic Vat				
W	V	U	R	J	D	S	H	U	V	C	T	F	W	Z	U	Q	D	S	F
T	R	E	U	V	P	Y	X	V	W	V	E	I	G	X	I	K	S	B	M
L	R	E	N	R	A	N	E	M	V	R	F	L	B	Z	R	I	J	O	P
R	Y	A	S	X	X	T	C	G	M	N	L	A	L	R	L	J	V	Y	R
T	N	O	T	I	A	H	T	E	N	B	Z	K	O	U	P	F	R	C	J
C	P	X	J	Z	S	E	N	A	R	U	Q	L	T	B	L	V	D	L	J
S	G	E	N	O	I	T	C	U	D	E	R	A	H	C	G	O	B	D	I
J	P	D	M	S	A	I	K	M	L	X	U	Z	M	M	Y	R	S	W	B
K	B	U	S	T	D	C	F	J	E	S	A	S	F	Q	P	B	D	E	Z
C	A	L	I	N	D	I	G	O	V	U	Y	E	P	C	S	G	I	B	P
N	N	O	I	T	A	D	I	X	O	B	S	I	H	Z	O	K	T	W	F
M	N	I	T	U	I	E	L	T	Y	R	K	G	O	O	Q	H	S	V	D
D	L	X	D	I	J	W	J	F	Q	E	O	P	I	E	C	B	J	E	C
C	Z	C	H	G	W	V	G	T	G	J	Z	G	G	F	E	S	A	S	M
N	K	D	P	Z	T	I	Y	H	I	Y	W	I	Y	D	V	J	L	T	K