

Let's Make Naturally Dyed Eggs!



Did you know that William Morris liked to use natural dyes in some of his designs?

He used natural plants called madder and weld to produce yellow and red dye, and indigo to make a beautiful deep blue for his design 'Strawberry Thief' which you can see below.



We are going to use some everyday groceries as dyes to see if we can produce magnificent colours from the natural world. We are using beetroot to create red, red cabbage to create blue and turmeric to create yellow. Once you have dyed your eggs, you could use these for an eco-friendly easter egg hunt!

We need:

- A saucepan
- A bowl or container (1 for each colour you decide to try)
- Beetroot for red (around 1 cup)
- Red cabbage for blue (around half a cabbage)
- Turmeric for yellow (2 tbsps)
- Vinegar (white or apple cider works best)
- Water
- A knife and chopping board
- An adult to help with chopping and boiling.
- Eggs (we recommend you hard boil these beforehand for safety)

TOP TIP: We used brown eggs for our example, but if you can find white eggs they will give an even better colour from the dye.

Let's start:

1. Pre-boil your eggs to make them safe for use.
2. Decide which colour you want to try, red, blue or yellow. Once you have decided, chop your cabbage or your beetroot into around 1cm chunks, or measure out 2 tablespoons of turmeric.
3. Add 1 litre of water and 2 tablespoons of vinegar to a saucepan and bring to the boil.
4. Add your dye ingredient and let simmer together for 30 minutes.
5. Transfer your mixture into another bowl or container and let cool before adding however many eggs you like.
6. Repeat this process with the other colours if you like.
7. Leave your eggs in their dye baths overnight if possible, or at least two hours to get a lovely colour.
8. Remove your eggs carefully and pat dry. They are now ready to use for an egg hunt!

EGG-STRA IDEA: you could also try adding masking tape to your eggs to create different shapes, this area will not be dyed. If you peel it off after you have removed your egg from the dye mixture it will leave behind a pattern on the egg!

