



Natural Easter Egg Dyeing eBook



Introduction

This eBook is intended to be a guide and a reference for dyeing eggs at home. Although all ingredients listed in this eBook are from natural sources, please be mindful of possible allergic reactions, keeping children from ingesting the ingredients, and providing adult supervision at all times. Enjoy using this eBook as a resource for many Easter seasons to come!



Why Natural Ingredients?

Traditional egg dyes may contain chemicals that are harmful. The colors produced, while vibrant and pretty, are not always colors found in nature. Dyeing with natural ingredients not only allows parents and children to connect with nature, but to also discuss each ingredient and where it comes from. And...it's a lot of fun to make your own dyes and create new variations each year!



Incorporating Arts with Egg-Dyeing

Handwork: Card fiber batts in Easter colors. Use the batts to needle or wet felt a playscape, bowl or egg tree to feature your eggs. Spin up the batt into a yarn. Knit, crochet, or weave the yarn into a place mat to put under your eggs.

Poems and Songs: Saying poems and singing songs while dyeing the eggs is a nice way to enjoy this special moment as a family. Children may write poems or songs of their own about the eggs, Easter, or about the dyeing process. Here is a little poem for dyeing:

**I take an egg
All shiny white
And then I dip
It out of sight.**

**I leave it there
Within the cup
Then after a minute
I pick it up.**

**And oh!
It's a lovely
Shade of green
The prettiest Easter egg
I've ever seen.**

Drama: Create a simple play or puppet show about Easter and include the eggs as props.

Art: Before dyeing, consider drawing on the eggs with a white crayon. The crayon areas will not be dyed. Shapes, spirals, letters and scenes can be decorated on eggs in this manner. After dyeing the eggs, children can try dyeing silk or cotton fabrics, or paint on paper with the remaining dyes in the bowls. (e.g.: The picture above shows the eggs in a wood bowl on top of a yellow cotton scarf that was dyed in turmeric.) Drawing, painting, pastels, and photography are all ways to capture or create pictures of your beautiful eggs after they are done! Include a little story or rhyme with the pictures



Dyeing the Eggs

- Eggs – organic white are the best for dyeing
- Bowls – one for each color (ceramic or glass work well)
- Pots
- Nylons (helpful for ingredients that are grainy)

- White vinegar (alum may also be used)
- Spoons, tongs or metal egg dippers
- Egg cartons or drying rack (4 thumb tacks or pins through cardboard per egg works well!)
- Oil (olive, sunflower or other)



Step 1: Pre-Preparation

Make sure that the eggs, bowls and spoon are clean and dry. Lay out the bowls with a spoon and 2 tblsp. of vinegar (or 1 tsp. alum) in each. Hard-boil the eggs in water for approximately 20 minutes. Allow eggs to cool. Gather the dye ingredients.



Step 2: Make the Dyes

Place ingredients in pots with water. You can do one color at a time, or use multiple pots and stove burners to make more colors at the same time. Once water is brought to a boil, allow to simmer for 10 minutes or longer. Pour colored water (now called “dye”) into the bowls. ***If you are working with young children, an option is for the adult to prepare the boiled eggs and the dyes the night before dyeing.*



Step 3: Dye the Eggs

Gently submerge eggs, one at a time, into the dyeing bowls. Dye may be warm or cool. With some dyes, leaving the egg in longer will produce a darker color. Variations: submerge half of an egg in one color, and half in another color; dye with one color, and then dye again with another color to create a new color; place cabbage leaves or onion skins directly

surrounding the eggs while submerged in the dye. Cover with a nylon and rubber bands to create a batik-look.



Step 4: Finish the Eggs

Allow eggs to dry. With your fingers, gently massage a drop of oil onto each egg for a bit of shine, then allow to dry again. Create a beautiful way to display your special eggs!



Dye Colors

Ingredients should be cut, chopped or smashed to help the color release into the water. Keep in mind that some ingredients dye better than others. Some will dye right away, while other might need to sit overnight (coffee,

spinach). Play with the quantity of ingredients to create different shades of color. Ingredients that are dried herbs/spices/copper will need 2 tblsp. in a small pot of water. Fruit/veggie/plant ingredients can be 1-3 cups in a larger pot of water.



Yellow

- Turmeric
- Orange peel
- Marigolds
- Saffron

Orange/Peach

- OnionsSkins
- Paprika
- Chili powder
- Curry powder

Pink/Red

- Beets
- Boysenberries
- Cherries
- Cranberries
- Brazilwood
- Madder root

Lavender/Purple

- Grape Juice
- Blackberries
- Blueberries
- Logwood

Blue

- Red Cabbage Leaves
- Blueberries

Green

- Copper granules
- Turmeric then Cabbage
- Spinach and other greens

Tan/Brown

- Coffee
- Tea
- Onion skin



About the Author

Jennifer Tan, MA is a retired teacher and school principal. She has homeschooled her three children with a Waldorf-inspired approach. Jennifer is a private handwork instructor and leads workshops throughout the country. Her family's handmade, Waldorf-inspired creations are found in their Etsy shop.

Blogs: www.syrendell.blogspot.com www.thewaldorfway.blogspot.com

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Facebook Page: Syrendell

Workshops: www.syrendellacademy.com

Etsy Shop: www.syrendell.etsy.com

Amazon Bookshop: <http://astore.amazon.com/syrendell-20>



Resources

Please see our Amazon store which features a wonderful variety of Waldorf-inspired books, including books on handwork and music.

<http://astore.amazon.com/syrendell-20>

Egg Dyeing Supplies

Fruits and Veggies

1. Grocery Store
2. Farmer's Market
3. Garden

Spices and Herbs

1. Mountain Rose Herbs: www.mountainroseherbs.com
2. Garden

Barks, Roots, Flowers and other Plant Dyes

1. Griffin Dyeworks: www.griffindyeworks.com
2. Yard/Garden

Egg-Blower

1. Magic Cabin Dolls: www.magiccabin dolls.com
2. Nova Naturals: www.novanaturals.com

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