

# Summer Scholars Art Education Session Week #9 - Tie-Dye

## Materials

- Coffee Filters
- Crayola Washable Markers
- Pipe Cleaners
- Pipette
- Water
- Cup for Water
- Scissor

\*\*\* Note any supplies in green are to supplied by the participants

## Goals

1. Understand symmetry, specifically radial symmetry when designing the coffee filters
2. Use water to manipulate an initial material, seeing how it causes colors to bleed
3. Create a recognizable object from an initially abstract design

## Background / Key Terms

- **Tie-Dye:** a term invented in the mid-1960s in the United States that consists of ancient resist-dyeing techniques, and for the product of these processes
- **Symmetry:** when the elements of a piece of art balance themselves out, in this case related to color
- **Radial Symmetry:** symmetry around a central axis such as a starfish

## Step-by-Step Process (based off of using the template)

1. Use one coffee filter and draw a design that has radial symmetry with the Crayola markers (example is below).



2. Use the pipette, a spoon, or your fingers to drip water droplets onto the coffee filter to cause the colors to run/bleed. This is best accomplished on a surface that you don't mind getting wet or getting markers on.
3. Ideally, the best method to dry the coffee filter is the natural sun because the colors will stay most true and appear most like tie-dye. However, for the nature of this project, it might be easiest to use a hair dryer to dry the filter the fastest. Note that the hair dryer method will likely cause the colors to blend more into one color.

Hair Dryer →



← Sunlight

4. Take a second coffee filter and repeat steps 1-3 to create the same radially symmetric design, applying the same water technique.
5. Once both are dry, accordion style fold lips of each coffee filter back and forth until each one is completely folded.
6. Stack one of the accordion coffee filters on top of the other.
7. Use a pipe cleaner to twist around the center of the two coffee filters to act as the antenna. You may need to snip off the ends with a scissor if you want them smaller.
8. Lastly, spread out the accordion folds of the upper and lower wings to resemble a butterfly and show off its tie-dye!



### Tips

- The water might come out of the pipette too fast to control, so instead I recommend dipping your fingers in a cup of water and sprinkling it on. You can also use a spoon or another creative solution to help with this step.
- This project looks best when the coffee filters dry naturally (outside in the sun will be the quickest option)! Another alternative is to use a hairdryer, but it will get rid of some of the patterning.

### Extensions

- Use the coffee filters to experiment creating other tie-dye items like monsters, flowers, etc.
- Create mobiles from the several decorated coffee filters, which will look super cool when the light passes through them!