



KOOL AID DYEING

Directions and suggestions for
a fun and easy classroom project.

Soak clean wool in warm water. I use a large pot and gradually increase water temperature to hot. NEVER change water temperature drastically when working with wool or you will have felt.

While wool is soaking, make your KOOL AID mixture by adding one package of KOOL AID to two cups of very hot water and stirring well. I prefer to use a glass bowl for this dye mixture because it enables the children to watch the magic!!

Add one skein of wet wool to the dye mixture and gently push down until all is wet. The longer you leave the wool in the pot, the darker the color. If you want it to be very dark, you can add 2 packages of KOOL AID.

When you've reached the desired shade, or all the color has been absorbed by the wool, you very gently lift the wool up, squeeze the excess water out, and hang to drip dry.

SUGGESTIONS

- ✓ Demonstrate first!!
- ✓ Divide the class into small groups and let everyone try it.
- ✓ KOOL AID stains!!! I let them choose their own colors and even try some mixtures, BUT I always supervise each group.
- ✓ Have several bowls of dye mixture available and let them "rainbow" dye by putting a portion of a skein in each bowl.
- ✓ Have plenty of paper towels handy.
- ✓ Use wooden spoons to do the mixing, and use broom sticks or wooden dowels to hang wool on to dry (preferably over a sink or outside).
- ✓ Use tags to identify student's dyed skein.
- ✓ Wool dyes better than any other fiber when using KOOL AID. White wool gives you the brightest colors, but pastels and light greys also dye well and give fun variations.

GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN !!!

KOOL AID DYEING ALTERNATIVE USING CROCKPOT

(Thanks to Marilyn Fischer, Sassafras Meadow Farm, Simpsonville, Kentucky)

1. Wet the wool . . . make sure it's thoroughly washed and wet.
2. Add two packages of sugarless KOOL AID to a crockpot of water. (You may use one package for a lighter shade.)
3. Stir.
4. Add wool.
5. Turn crockpot on high.
6. When crockpot is hot and steaming, you may turn the temperature down to "simmer" or low for 30 minutes.
7. At the end of the 30 minutes, turn the crockpot off, the dye bath should be "exhausted".
8. Now, rinse the wool and wash with soap or detergent. (Please make sure the water temperature is consistent, do not plunge hot wool into cold water!)
9. Go home and experiment.